

26th November, 1983 33p

Shoot!

THE SUPER CUP

Aberdeen's Avengers



KERRY DIXON

THE CHELSEA REVOLUTION

ROBINSON -an Anfield hit?

Stars give their verdicts

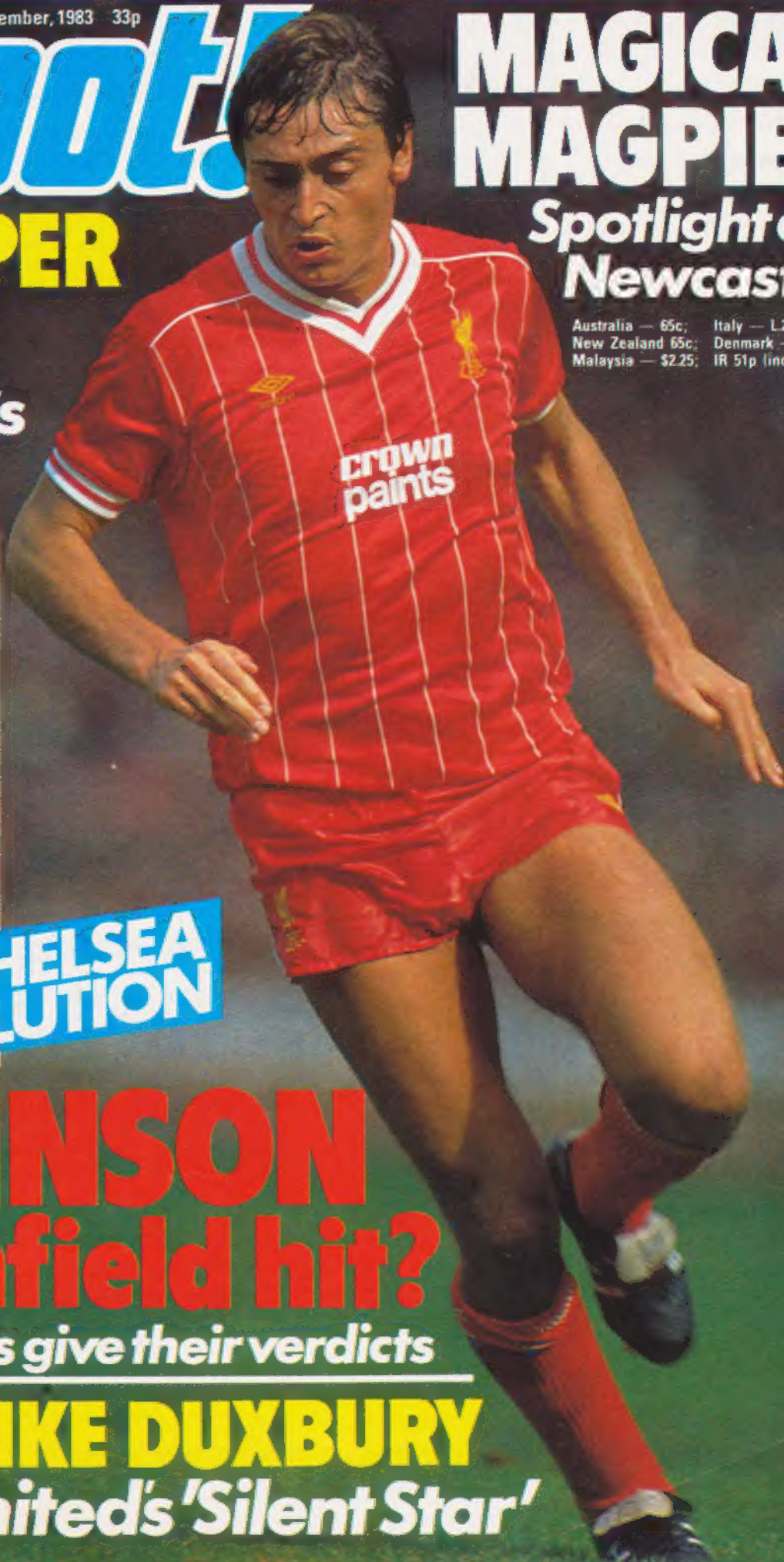
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Protect strikers

YOU can understand Peter Shilton's anger when he hobbled out of a collision with Mike Channon, of Norwich, clutching his left thigh and writhing in agony.

Angry words were exchanged as the Southampton and England goalkeeper made it plain that he thought Channon's challenge had been illegal in a First Division game at Carrow Road earlier this month.

Sympathies go out to Shilton in his moment of agony but it must be said that outfield players have had a raw deal from referees in the rough handling they have received from goalkeepers.

So often the goalkeeper is an over protected species — and the poor attacker finishes up with a swelling bruise and no punishment for the 'keeper.

Mike Channon, one of football's most gentlemanly players, has taken the rough with the smooth since he made his debut for Southampton way back in 1966.

SHOOT view!

But there was a fair amount of commonsense in the view he expressed after his collision with Shilton that: "I've got scars all over my body where I've been whacked by goalkeepers. I haven't complained as I've just accepted it as part of the game. Shilton should do the same."

Anyone who witnessed the horrifying foul West German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher committed on Battiston, of France, in the 1982 World Cup Finals would agree that forwards need the referee's protection just as much as goalkeepers.

Goalkeepers have been proud of their freedom to "dish it out" for many years. In the old days, when strikers were entitled to barge goalkeepers shoulder to shoulder, the laws of football were weighted against them. In those days they were the victims.

Many people today believe, quite rightly, that goalkeepers have been getting away with murder for too long; that referees should tighten-up ... to protect the poor old striker.

ANFIELD FLOP..

That's what critics forecast for Mike Robinson but

MICHAEL Robinson's career would make a truly crazy graph. Because the Liverpool centre-forward's form and reputation have risen steadily while his value on the transfer market has nose-dived! Here we track the striker's career and examine the theory that he faces a struggle to fit in at Anfield.

Manchester City paid Preston North End £750,000 for Mike Robinson in July, 1979. He was 21, raw with just 45 League games and 15 goals to his credit.

He battled but struggled in Malcolm Allison's troubled side, making only 29 League appearances and scoring eight goals. But lesser players would have been crushed by the

ROBBBO'S ALL THE RAGE!

experience. Robinson's meagre haul was still enough to make him top scorer, and he learned from a daunting Maine Road career.

Brighton stepped in exactly 12 months later, but their offer was a massive £350,000 less than City paid Preston!

Yet Robinson thrived on the sea air, playing 111 League games and scoring 37 goals with a power and pace that caught the attention of the Republic of Ireland selectors.

Suddenly he was an international striker — thanks to part-Irish parentage — and played a big part in Albion's tremendous march to the 1983 F.A. Cup Final.

But the move that has really changed his career came when Liverpool, slicing £150,000 off the

fee Brighton paid, offered £200,000 and immediately stirred a hornets' nest!

Fans and media alike seemed split in their opinions about a player who, some felt, was not in the Liverpool mould.



'CAUSED US ENDLESS TROUBLE

MAL DONAGHY
Luton

Although he did not score, Robinson played just as big a part as anybody in our 6-0 destruction at Anfield.

He caused us endless trouble by his tireless running, and I think he has settled well into their attack.

I first played against him about five or six years ago when he was with Preston, and he impressed me then.

He's in the old fashioned mould of a big centre-forward. He's a good target man, possesses a neat first touch, and has tremendous pace.

One thing I did notice at Anfield was that he seems to have got even quicker since the days when I played against him at Preston and Brighton.

He certainly didn't appear to struggle against us and I'm sure he'll be an Anfield hit.

STAR VERDICTS

Shoot talked to four top First Division defenders who have faced Mike Robinson this season, and there's no doubt in their minds — he is a resounding hit!



'HE RUINED MY BIG DAY'

BILLY BONDS West Ham

Michael Robinson's strength is his strength. He's a big, powerful lad and a very determined runner.

He could turn out to be a very good buy, because his running makes life a lot easier for Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish.

Unfortunately, we caught Liverpool on one of their good days, and they pulverised us with a superb all-round performance to win 3-1 at our ground.

Robinson played his part, and put his three chances away very well — ruining my big day, my 700th first team match for West Ham!

He slipped past me for the first goal, when he connected to a long punt upfield and sneaked in a header past Phil Parkes.

None of his three goals that day were classics, but he took them well and that's all that matters.



Sunderland defender Shaun Elliott gets to grips with Robinson at Anfield ... literally!

'HE'LL SCORE LOTS OF GOALS'

SHAUN ELLIOTT
Sunderland

We are one of the few teams to beat Liverpool at Anfield in recent years. Furthermore, we managed to keep a clean sheet, with Gary Rowell's penalty giving us the points.

Even so, Robinson did as well as anyone, and I think he'll definitely score a lot of goals for them.

Like everyone else at Anfield, it seems to take time for a player to fit in and play the 'Liverpool way'.

He has a good physique, is excellent in the air and will benefit from his time at Liverpool. He'll have to work hard, but once he fits in properly to their direct style of play, he'll be a different player.

With Ian Rush proving to be a goal-machine and David Hodgson waiting in the wings for his chance, along came Robinson. And he found the going tough at first as he adjusted to the style of the most powerful team in Britain.

Robinson agrees: "When I came to Anfield, the Press were putting pressure on me to score, so when I scored my hat-trick against West Ham I was absolutely delighted. It took a lot of pressure off me.

"But it was a team effort. It was a day for me when everything went well, and it could just as easily have been Ian Rush who got on to the end of a number of good moves.

"People make a lot of fuss about hat-tricks but they have to be supplied by other people. If I put the ball in the net I try to forget about it straight away and look forward to staying in contention for the following game."

In his first eight games of the season, Robinson failed to score. He got on the goals trail against Odense in the European Cup and against Brentford in the first-leg of the Milk Cup in London. That was followed by his hat-trick against West Ham.

In the Milk Cup return with Brentford, Mike scored again, followed by another in the 3-0 defeat of Everton, his eighth goal of the season.

But he admits he has experienced trouble in settling down at Anfield, as did Ray Kennedy, Alan Kennedy and Craig Johnston in the past.

Robinson, however, is making a giant effort to succeed, and he says: "I'm with the best club in the world, and our manager, Joe Fagan, makes things as simple as possible. He possesses a marvellous knowledge of the game, and treats all the players like adults.

"When I had that opening spell without scoring, he pointed out to the Press that I'd made four out of the previous five goals and that I was doing my job.

"That sort of remark can boost your confidence tremendously and makes you feel you are making a contribution."

A self-confessed worrier, the 25-year-old Robinson was in early awe of his Anfield colleagues, but there was no hesitation in his mind when he was given the opportunity to join Liverpool.

"I grabbed the chance when it came because I'm ambitious. Every player envies the successful clubs, and if some players don't sign for Liverpool I think it's on account of their fear that they won't make it."



'ROBBO WAS A HANDFUL'

DAVE WATSON
Norwich

Speaking as an ex-Liverpool player, I think Mike has done very well considering how difficult it is for a lot of players to fit in to their style of play.

I had trouble breaking into Liverpool's reserves, let alone the first team, and some players need time to adjust.

You are drilled to play the easy way at Anfield. When you get the ball, you give it to a colleague straight away.

Give Mike time and he'll score a lot of goals for them.

Robbo was a handful when we were beaten 1-0 at home by Liverpool.

It was only his second League game for them, but he proved awkward to mark. He was running all over the place, and he is very quick.

BRITISH fans held their breath when the draw for the UEFA Cup Third Round brought together Nottingham Forest and Celtic.

Forest, twice European Champions, against Celtic, pride of Scotland in the European stakes with two European Cup Finals to their credit and the first British club to win the trophy back in 1967.

It promises to be one of the most colourful and exciting ties of the whole competition this season, a sentiment wholly shared by Forest manager Brian Clough.

After hearing the draw, Clough said: "This is a fantastic tie, one that guarantees two excellent games and two excellent matches."

"It is a long time since we had a sell-out at the City Ground and I am looking forward to just that when Celtic come to town."

"I don't plan to watch Celtic

UEFA CUP THIRD ROUND PREVIEW

the tie in his 'Tartan Talk' on page 15.

Spurs will set their teeth and declare a "Third time lucky" promise to their fans when they take on Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup Third Round.

The Bavarian 'Reds' knocked the North Londoners out of the European Cup-Winners' Cup in last season's Second Round by a convincing 5-2 aggregate.

And two years ago, Barcelona came to White Hart Lane and used

Cup, Bayern are very keen to complete a 'Euro-Treble' by winning the UEFA Cup for the first time.

Bayern have a star-studded side, led with style and panache by Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, star of the West German national side, and his exciting younger brother Michael, whose recent goals have almost put his mentor in the shade.

Dieter Hoeness and Klaus Augenthaler will prove a severe test for the Tottenham ranks, as will Wolfgang Dremmler. And few English fans will need reminding of the pace and skill of Danish international Soren Lerby, whose contribution to Bayern's progress this season has been significant.

Lattek has put some steel in the side, something that may become more evident in the second-leg when the Germans cross the North Sea. So Spurs must draw upon all the European experience of men such as Ray Clemence, Steve

Perryman and Glenn Hoddle.

Watford, whose magnificent form in Europe has been in total contrast with their First Division form this season, face another extremely difficult UEFA Cup tie, against Czechoslovakian side Sparta Prague.

Sparta are one of the aristocrats of Czech football, boasting no fewer than 13 League Championships and four Czech Cup wins plus a wealth of European experience.

Sparta have already come through two very difficult rounds, knocking out Widzew Lodz and Real Madrid.

They are strong, brave and very confident, understandably convinced that Watford must rate as easier opposition when compared with their opponents in the First and Second Rounds!

But Graham Taylor's astonishing side — depleted by injury and filled with kids and veterans — have already seen off the experienced

FOREST v CELTIC — Clough says it's FANTASTIC!

before the game. If I did they would probably frighten me, so I think I'll just wait until we meet on the night!

"I know people talk about the reputation of their supporters, but as far as I am concerned they are fanatical in their support for their team and a credit to their club."

"One thing is for sure, Celtic won't be short of backing in either game."

"Celtic's reputation is second to none in Scotland. They have got great tradition and must regard success in the UEFA Cup as a means of maintaining it."

Celtic's Paul McStay previews

a boot and muscle approach in the Semi-Final of the same competition. They set up victory for the second-leg... managed by current Bayern boss Udo Lattek!

Spurs have recovered from a shaky start and are in just the mood to give the Bundesliga giants a taste of their own medicine.

But manager Keith Burkinshaw must be aware that his side face a very stiff test of their calibre in the first-leg in Munich's Olympic Stadium where Bayern are rightly feared.

And with three European Cup wins and one in the Cup-Winners'



'Keeper Steve Sherwood comes to the rescue as Watford resist the pressure to beat Levski Spartak 3-1 in Sofia in their Second Round tie.

West German side Kaiserslautern and Bulgaria's aggressive Levski Spartak.

Predictions that they would struggle against Continental sides have already been reduced to rubble — as has just about every criticism levelled against them.

Sparta are managed by Vaclav Jezek, now 60 and formerly manager of the Czechoslovakian national team that won the European Championship in 1976.

His side is hinged on the all-round skill and strength of World Cup player Jan Berger in midfield and their two international defenders, Frantisek Straka and Zdenek Scasny.

Goalkeeper Andre Houska is a popular figure with Prague fans and the whole team, containing no fewer than seven Czech Under-21 internationals, is seen as the up and coming force in the country.



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge beats Gary O'Reilly during Bayern's Cup-Winners' Cup victory against Spurs last season.



After beating PSV Eindhoven, I reckon Forest can go on to win the UEFA Cup.

I've never played against Aberdeen. Come to think of it, I've never played against any of Scotland's big four, not even in pre-season games.

Maybe I'll get my chance with Sampdoria next season. We're halfway in the League and are aiming for a place in the UEFA Cup at least.

Like all European ties, the UEFA Cup gets tremendous coverage on Italian television.

I saw the Feyenoord v. Spurs tie live, also games involving all three Italian clubs in Europe the same night.

British teams are featured regularly, that's how I keep up-to-date with the scene back home. And through *Shoot*, of course.

European football is more important to the fans over here than their domestic competitions. I can't help thinking European Cup success for Roma would be regarded as great a triumph as winning the World Cup.

Italy is envious of Britain's European success over the past few years and find it incredible the likes of Liverpool, Forest and Aberdeen don't receive the credit they deserve.

Britain is still very much involved in the UEFA Cup with Spurs, Watford, Celtic and Forest.

No disrespects to the others, but I

STAR WRITER



TREVOR FRANCIS UEFA GLORY FOR CLOUGH?

But I can't see Manchester United, or anyone, knocking Liverpool off the top just yet.

From what I've seen this season, Liverpool are still the team to beat. After a patchy spell they've hit top form at just the right time and could well add the European Cup to their triumphs this season!

Biggest danger to Liverpool will

be Roma now that holders SV Hamburg have been surprisingly beaten by Dinamo Bucharest.

I know that Roma are desperately hoping to avoid Liverpool in the Quarter-Finals. Everyone in Italy was impressed with their performance in Bilbao.

Apparently 50,000 Basque fans had come to cheer the defeat of the English Champions, but stayed to applaud Joe Fagan's men.

Manchester United must have a great chance of making it a European double for England by winning the Cup-Winners' Cup.

Threat

After a shaky start in the competition, two goals by Frank Stapleton against Spartak Varna sent United through to their first European Quarter-Finals in 14 years.

Main threat to United will come from Juventus and a Barcelona team who could be strengthened by the return of Maradona.

As I've said in previous columns, there are some outstanding players in Italy, but by far the best in the world is Maradona. It's a terrible tragedy he received that horrendous injury.

Aberdeen, who beat Real Madrid in last term's Final, won't release the Cup-Winners' Cup without a fight.

The Dons, with players such as Eric Black, Peter Weir and the fabulous Gordon Strachan, will take some stopping, especially now manager Alex Ferguson is staying after rejecting a move to Rangers.

want Forest to win the trophy. I've still got a soft spot for my old club and boss Brian Clough.

Outside Britain, main contenders for the UEFA Cup must include Inter-Milan, even though they aren't doing too well in the League.

Now for the latest on Luther Blissett and Liam Brady.

Recent reports in England say that Luther is under fire and unhappy at AC Milan because of his lack of goals.

I played against him recently when AC beat Sampdoria 2-1 and can tell you he is enjoying life in Milan and determined to succeed.

Finally, the Liam Brady situation. You may have read Liam is on his way to Manchester United, Arsenal or Spurs, who watched him when we lost to Roma at home a few weeks ago.

Well, I've this message to all managers back home. There's no need to assess Liam's ability. He's still a world class player and should interest every soccer boss in England provided they can afford him.

I can also reveal Liam is not going anywhere at the moment. His contract ends this season and naturally I hope he stays at Sampdoria.

But Liam has not made up his mind yet. He says he will decide on his future when he feels the time's right.

See you soon ...

Trevor Francis



Roma dangerman Bruno Conti.

ROMA caused a sensation last season winning the Italian Championship.

Everyone, me included, considered star-studded Juventus, a side containing most of Italy's World Cup winning team, to be almost invincible.

But despite the odds, Roma triumphed ... and they could do it again this season!

The dominance in Italy is definitely swinging away from Turin to Rome.

Juventus are still a very formidable team, of course, but I give Roma the edge because they have the best club midfield trio in the world ... Ancelotti (Italy) and famous Brazilians Cerezo and Falcao.

Also starring for current League leaders Roma is Bruno Conti, my man-of-the-match for Italy when they beat West Germany in the 1982 World Cup Final.

Conti is one of the few players from that squad to retain his place in the new look Italian team.

So Roma have ended Juventus' reign ... just as Dundee United and Aberdeen have broken the Old Firm stranglehold in Scotland.

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STAR WRITER

BRYAN ROBSON

I HAVE been a television sport fanatic since England won the World Cup in 1966.

Aged nine, I would rush out of the house with a football tucked under my arm, stimulated by England's brilliant football en route to beating West Germany in the Final at Wembley.

If I was going for goal in one of those childhood kick-arounds, I would always be 'Bobby Charlton'. If I was defending for my life, with



I'd like to give the idea of 'live' TV coverage the thumbs up, too!

TV FANATIC

our street team leading 15-14, I'd become 'Bobby Moore'.

Moore and Charlton were my schoolboy heroes — and I shall always be grateful to television for giving me an opportunity to watch their magical football skills.

It's timely to talk about television's involvement in football 17 years on from those childhood glory days because the introduction this season of 'live' soccer relayed to our living rooms has added a new, and welcome, dimension to sport on the box.

I think it's a great idea — and doesn't Manchester United's boss Ron Atkinson talk a lot of sense as back-up to Brian Moore?

That's me!

I'm basing my opinion on Ron's performance in the commentary box for ITV's coverage of the Liverpool-Everton derby at Anfield.

People say television football kills crowd attendances. Well, more than 40,000 fans crammed into Anfield for that game — and a few million more watched it after Sunday lunch in their homes.

I don't care what people say, football and television should enjoy a happy marriage. One can't survive without the other, so the sooner we realise that it's here to stay the better.

If the television people can be selective in their choice of matches to cover live there is no reason why they should not get value for money, and the football clubs likewise.

If Manchester United drew Manchester City in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup next January, nothing would keep the real United and City fans from attending the game, even live TV coverage.

Where the football authorities and television people could fall out is if Brian Moore or John Motson have to do a commentary on a potentially dull match.

It's not television coverage that is hitting turnstile receipts. The recession has harmed football. Fans just can't afford to go to all the games that are on offer.

I also believe that television is not to blame for a slight lowering of playing standards. We are not quite as good as our predecessors, and that's a fact.

But the players are making determined efforts to make the game more entertaining and that is borne out by all the goals being scored.

If Charlton, Moore and Geoff Hurst sharpened my appetite for football, I must also confess to having another childhood hero. For some reason, former Spurs striker Frank Saul stands out in my memory after scoring one of the goals in the 1967 F.A. Cup Final that beat Chelsea.

The video boom has been tremendous. I'm building a library of soccer films. I tape all the England games and have Manchester United's Wembley appearances in the past year on record.

Mistakes

It's funny watching yourself on the telly. You spot all your mistakes! Ray Wilkins clipped a lovely cross into the Liverpool penalty area in the Charity Shield and I made a rapid strike with my head believing Phil Neal was about to tackle me. When I saw it on film I realised I had yards of space to try to place my header beyond Bruce Grobbelaar.

I'm also an avid fan of televised golf, athletics, snooker, horse racing, boxing and a few other sports. I love watching fights from America.

My advice to every soccer fan is: Go to as many games as you can and soak up the atmosphere. There's nothing like standing in a crowd to shout on your team. And don't listen to all this talk about how bad television is for sport. Watch as much of it as you can.

Football is still our national sport — and no amount of television coverage will kill the interest in our greatest game.

Bryan Robson

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"I want to get you all in the right frame of mind for next week's Milk Cup match."



"Got any room for eleven players?"



"I told you that undersoil heating was too strong."



"It was the last straw. The players offered to play for nothing to help the club out of financial difficulties."



I thrilled to the exploits of Bobby Charlton as a boy.

Shoot! BRAUN



Sheffield Wednesday will be in the First Division.

"In fact, Gary and I met on a supporters' train that was travelling to Highbury to watch The Owls in a Milk Cup Quarter-Final tie against Arsenal last season.

"What impressed me was that despite Wednesday losing 1-0, Gary was not too dismayed. He managed to keep a brave face even though he felt the team deserved at least a replay.

"He has been a season ticket holder for the past four seasons and it would make all the travelling worthwhile if the

SHEFFIELD Wednesday's determined bid to gain promotion from the Second Division this season has left 22-year-old Gary Walker with a broad smile.

For Gary has followed The Owls

The Happy Owl

since the age of 14 and their success this term in leading the Second Division table has made the 120 mile round trip from his home in York worthwhile.

"He travels the length and breadth of Great Britain following Wednesday," says his girlfriend and nominator Carron Pearson.

"Gary has seen his favourites in action on more than 60 grounds and he is hoping to visit a few more next season when, hopefully,

Hillsborough club gained promotion.

"As you can imagine, we are both ardent Sheffield Wednesday supporters but the distances Gary covers to watch his favourites is unbelievable.

"And that is why he deserves your accolade of Fan of the Week."

He certainly does Carron and congratulations to Gary.

Despite last season's Milk Cup Quarter-Final defeat at Arsenal, Fan of the Week Gary Walker is still an ardent follower of the fortunes of Sheffield Wednesday.



DO you know a super fan like Gary Walker? Then write to Shoot telling why he or she deserves to be rewarded for their loyalty to football.

In collaboration with Braun Electric (UK) Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of electric shavers, Shoot is searching for the Fan of the Year 1984.

From the letters received we will select the Fan of the Week.

Each will receive a silver-plated facsimile of the Shoot/Braun Fan of the Year trophy, a pair of Adidas football boots, a super shaver from Braun and an Adidas Tango football for his or her club.

Later in the season our Fans of the Week will be studied by a panel of football personalities — including Bobby Robson, Bryan Robson, Trevor Brooking, Charlie Nicholas,

Mika Flanagan, Steve Perryman and Ray Clemence — who will select the Fan of the Year.

All Fans of the Week, along with their nominators, will be invited to an expenses-paid luncheon at the Cafe Royal in London, where Frank Bough, the famous TV presenter, will again host the ceremony to honour the FAN OF THE YEAR.

In addition to a superb trophy, the winner and his or her companion will be offered free trips to Paris for the Final of the 1984 European Championship. Want to join the hunt for the FAN OF THE YEAR? Then send your nomination straight away to Shoot/Braun Fan of the Year, Shoot Magazine, IPC Magazines Ltd, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS, enclosing his or her photograph and shoe size.

Billy Thomson is SMILING UNDER FIRE

ST. Mirren goalkeeper Billy Thomson recently conceded ten goals in two games, and was still smiling!

"Sounds a bit strange, doesn't it?" asks the big, blond 'keeper.

"But, at the same time, Jock Stein still had enough faith in me to include me in his international squad for the European Championship match against Belgium a few days later.

"That's a real breakthrough. It's marvellous to be involved in the international scene and it's also nice to know that Mr Stein wasn't going to leave me out when things were getting a bit rough."

The landslide of goals against Thomson came when Rangers rattled in five without reply in a League Cup tie at Ibrox and Aberdeen repeated the feat in a League match at Pittodrie.

'Blaming'

"I would prefer to forget those games," says Thomson. "Being honest, I don't think there was that much I could have done in either game. I'm not blaming anyone, but it was almost one-way traffic in both matches."

All the indications point to this being Thomson's last season at Love Street. His contract expires next summer and the agile 'keeper is almost certain to move to English football.

Manchester United, looking for cover for Gary Bailey, have watched the Scottish international reserve on several occasions already and the word is that they have been impressed by what they have seen.

Ricky McFarlane, the former St.

Mirren manager who quit this season, is an admirer of Thomson's ability and rates him in the £750,000 class!

That's the amount McFarlane put on the 'keeper's head when Malcolm Allison, then in charge of Crystal Palace, made an inquiry about Thomson a few seasons ago.

"I thought that was a fair figure considering the transfer market at the time," says McFarlane.

Thomson would have been worth every penny. He has the talent to go to the very top. He has everything a good goalkeeper needs.

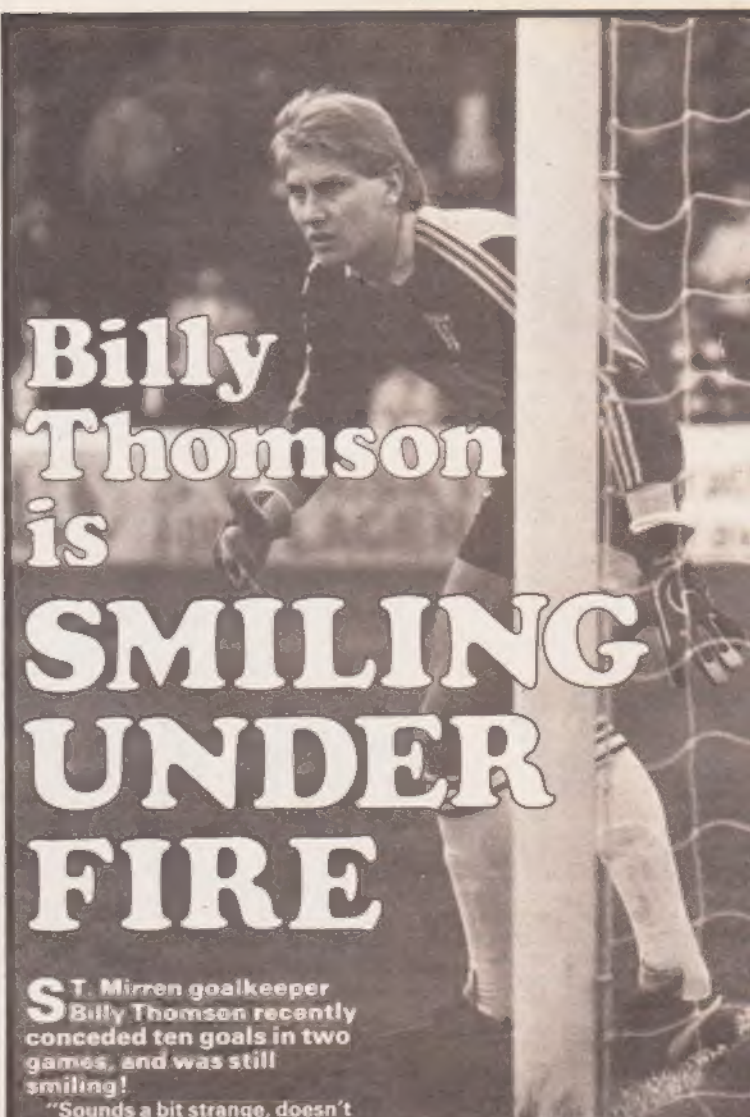
"His temperament is first class, he has good hands, is brave and commands his penalty box well."

The greatest disappointment in Thomson's career so far was his omission from Jock Stein's World Cup Finals squad for Spain.

He had been the understudy for Alan Rough throughout the qualifying section and played a full game against Portugal in Lisbon as well as part of the tie against Northern Ireland at Hampden.

But when Jock Stein got down to drawing up his pool for Spain he named Rough, George Wood and present choice Jim Leighton as his three travelling goalkeepers.

"Yes, I was choked at the time," says Thomson. "But that's the way it goes in football. You've just got to get on with the game and push your disappointments to the side."



STAR
WRITER

Charlie Nicholas

Tony Woodcock has been in tremendous form. Here's his first goal as we beat Nottingham Forest 4-1.



GOALS FOR TONY—

GLOOM FOR DANNY

THIS week I'd like to talk about a couple of strikers currently enjoying vastly differing fortunes.

One is my Arsenal team-mate Tony Woodcock, top scorer in the First Division at the moment after his unbelievable five-goal performance at Aston Villa.

The other is my former Celtic colleague Danny Crainie, who's just coming to the end of a month's loan with bottom of the table Wolves.

I'll start with Tony, who has proved to me this season just what a fantastic player he is. When you consider that he's hardly been able to train because of an ankle injury, it makes his recent performances even more praiseworthy.

Strong

He has tremendous pace and is deceptively strong. Because he's got such marvellous balance he's extremely difficult to knock off the ball.

I'm sure the two years he spent in Germany with Cologne have helped him. His awareness of just what's going on around the penalty area is something else.

Tony and I now feel we're starting to develop a good understanding. We know where to look for each other and he makes it so easy for me because he's always available for a pass.

I'd like to think that my arrival at Arsenal has helped to spark Tony's

goalscoring spree, but I don't want to take any of the credit away from him.

It's not for me to pick the England team, but I can think of no one better for the job than Tony.

England are crying out for a top quality finisher and there can be no question marks against Tony's talent. He's proved he can score goals and I'm confident he'll continue to do so.

Against Aston Villa he was simply superb. I've never seen a game where one player has scored five goals before.

Right now I'd settle for even one goal. My barren spell continued when we were beaten 2-1 at home by Sunderland, and it's after results like that that the pressure builds up on me.

When we were winning 4-1 against Forest and 6-2 at Villa it was fine, but when we struggle for goals it's obvious I'm one of the men the team will look to.

It's not the first time I've gone 12 games without a goal, but that

Danny Crainie hasn't had much luck at Celtic this season. He's now followed me to England to join Wolves on loan.



doesn't make it any more excusable.

I normally go through a lean spell just after Christmas, so I'm hoping it's simply come earlier this season.

But while Tony has been getting all the goals and glory, my mate Danny Crainie has really been having a tough time this season.

When I broke a leg a couple of years ago, Danny came in for me and played out of this world.

A lot of people expected him to step in to the Celtic team as my replacement again this season, but things didn't quite work out that way.

Perhaps the change of manager hasn't helped. David Hay clearly feels there are others better suited to the job and seems to be prepared to let Danny leave Celtic.

Like me, he's still a big Celtic fan, but I think he'll probably go if someone comes in with the right offer for him.

At the moment his confidence is pretty low, but he's still only 21 and I know he can bounce back. I can assure you that he has got a hell of a lot of talent.

Danny is still my best pal and we're always on the phone to each other. When I heard he was going to Wolves on loan, I jumped in the car and drove up the M1 to see how he was getting on.

He seems to be enjoying himself at the club and I get the impression that he wouldn't mind trying his luck in England.

I've told him lots of nice things about English football and I'm cer-

tain that if somebody came up with the cash they'd be buying a tremendous player.

One of the good things about English football is facing teams you used to follow, and that's the case this Saturday when Everton come to Highbury.

I don't really know why, but as a lad I always used to follow their results. I suppose they were my favourite English team.

I haven't seen much of them in recent months, although I did see their 3-0 defeat by Liverpool on TV the other Sunday.

They're obviously going through a very difficult period and, like Arsenal a few months ago, have come in for a great deal of criticism.

I'm happy to say that we seem to have come through that sticky spell, and I hope Everton can do the same.

After this Saturday, of course...

Charlie Nicholas

THE SUPER CUP

Hamburg v Aberdeen

Volkspark Stadium,
Tuesday, November 22

The burning desire to be crowned Europe's top team will spur Aberdeen to Super Cup success against crack German outfit SV Hamburg.

That's the confident prediction from Scotland goalkeeper Jim Leighton as he and his Pittodrie colleagues prepare for the first-leg in the Volkspark Stadium on Tuesday (November 22).

And The Dons, whose triumph in the Cup-Winners' Cup has earned them the right to challenge for the top prize in European club football, also have a few old scores to settle with the Champions' Cup-holders.

"Yes, we're looking for revenge against Hamburg," confirms Leighton, "and no one will be more delighted than me if we beat them."

"They knocked us out of the UEFA Cup two years ago and I still have nightmares about our last clash. We hit them with everything in the first-leg at Pittodrie but could only manage a 3-2 win."

"It was my mistake that gave them the first goal and their second came right at the end. In between, apart from our three goals, we missed a penalty, hit the woodwork and forced their 'keeper to make several good saves."

"We didn't have the best of luck that night. I had very little to do and I seem to remember two of the few occasions I got to grips with the ball was to pick it from the net!"

If the memory of his blunder at Pittodrie still haunts him, the same can be said of the second-leg in which Leighton admits the Germans taught his side a footballing lesson.

"They really turned it on over there and won 3-1. But I think I can promise there won't be the same difference between the sides this time round," he adds. "For a start, we've grown up as a team and learned a lot since that."

"We're still basically the same set of players but we've achieved a lot in the past couple of years and we're all better for the experience we've gained. Hamburg won't have it all their own way this time."

Missing from the Germans' line-up will be giant striker Horst Hrubesch, scorer of both Hamburg's goals at Aberdeen in that UEFA Cup match that goalkeeper Leighton would prefer to forget.

Hrubesch scored another in the return, but at the end of last season, after helping the Germans beat Italian favourites Juventus in the European Cup Final as well as retaining their own domestic title, he departed to join Belgian Champions Standard Liege.



Leighton is beaten by Hamburg's Horst Hrubesch in the UEFA Cup-tie of two years ago.

Another star who has since quit Hamburg is Franz Beckenbauer and Leighton recalls: "When we played over there in 1981 we had Eric Black and John Hewitt up front. Their combined ages added up to the same as Beckenbauer's!"

"That's what we were up against then but, as I said earlier, we're a different side these days in terms of confidence and ability. We fear no one."

"And we won't be paying any attention to the rumours that

Hamburg are on the decline, even though they've just gone out of the European Cup. They have a tremendous record in recent years and we'll be treating them with every respect."

"But we badly want to win this trophy. It's a chance that might never come along again. We want to show we're worthy of it, that we are the best team in Europe, and I'm confident we can do it."

The Super Cup has never found its way to Scotland before. Last season Aston Villa brought it to England after going down 1-0 in Barcelona but winning a stormy return leg 3-0.

"I remember seeing highlights of Villa's home game on TV and some of the tackles by the Spanish

THE DONS' REVENGE PLAN

players were shocking," he says. "But I can't see our games against Hamburg turning nasty."

"Having played them before, there is a good relationship between the two clubs. We're certainly not a side who go out to kick opponents and I don't expect Hamburg to be over-aggressive, either."

"They're a very good, workmanlike side and I would think their most dangerous player is Felix Magath. I'll be watching for his explosive shooting. Manny Kaltz is also a world-class player and we can expect to see him pushing forward from right-back at every opportunity."

"We've seen a bit of Hamburg on the video and we won't be going to Germany just to defend. That's not our style and we mustn't forget the importance of away goals. They could be crucial at the end of the day."

"The importance of these games against Hamburg isn't lost on anyone at Aberdeen and I'm talking about the supporters and players alike. We want to win so badly you can almost feel it!"



Villa boss Tony Barton shows the Super Cup memento which Aberdeen hope to win this year.



Paolo Rossi

VERDI 2002



DANNY WALLACE

The man they can't catch

FEW people realised the gem that Lawrie McMenemy had unearthed when he launched Danny Wallace on the First Division last season.

The sheer pace and skill of the little Londoner took defenders completely by surprise.

And it is difficult to believe that he is in only his second full season!

Southampton are already through their brief spell of transition following the loss of experienced stars such as Kevin Keegan, Alan Ball, Ivan Golac and Chris Nicholl.

And Saints are now serious contenders for the League title Liverpool have dominated for so long.

With Steve Moran and Steve Williams grabbing the headlines, Saints are in the mood to bring great success to Hampshire. And Wallace has the ability and pace to make the whole side sparkle.

He finished last season as top League scorer at the club with 12 goals in 32 games.

A Danny Wallace goal is often something to remember. And he certainly gave the nation something to talk about last season when his tricky weaving run and shot against

Luton Town was captured by the television cameras.

England Under-21 honours have already been won and the sheer audacity of Wallace on the ball makes him a definite candidate for Bobby Robson's full England squad in the future.

He enjoys the ball at his feet, can hug a line and lure defenders into challenges they regret and operates as an orthodox winger.

Once he gets up steam he is a winger very few men can catch and his attacking flair typifies McMenemy's type of football.



BIRMINGHAM'S Robert Hopkins turns to shield the ball from the challenge of Watford's Wilf Rostron.

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TOTTENHAM'S GHOST

THINK of a Spurs player. Glenn Hoddle. Think of another White Hart Lane star. Ossie Ardiles.

Another. Gary Mabbutt. Another. Steve Archibald.

The chances are that by the time the average football fan has reeled off three quarters of Tottenham's First Division side, he will not have mentioned one of the club's most reliable, and often most dangerous, stars.

The player is unsung, but not unloved, Tony Galvin, the player they call the "Ghost" of White Hart Lane because of his ability to come from "nowhere" to score a winning goal — or a desperate, last ditch tackle to clear his lines.

Galvin, born in Huddersfield, spent most of his early career with non-League Goole Town while attending university before Spurs snapped him up for £30,000. Fluent in Russian, the flying left-winger quickly proved he is also an expert in the art of beating defenders.

In his early games for Spurs he used his pace and no-nonsense approach to hitting the line to surprise defenders who had not even heard of him, let alone worked out his game.

Spurs marched to Wembley for the 1981 F.A. Cup Final and Galvin played a huge part in their success, making and scoring goals.

Manchester City were beaten 3-2 in an unforgettable replay after drawing the first game 1-1.

Yet Galvin was something of an unsung hero as Ricky Villa and Ossie Ardiles received the star treatment.

Working back in the defence is part of Galvin's immense contribution to his side's successes in recent seasons.

He is prepared to graft to ensure that his side of the pitch is free from danger

when the opposition has the ball, and switches to attack the moment Spurs gain possession.

And when they repeated their F.A. Cup march 12 months later, it was Galvin who worked himself to a standstill as his team sloggled through a series of 1-0 wins — including the Final, a seventh-minute penalty by Glenn Hoddle, after again drawing the first game.

On the international front there was talk of Galvin representing England. Nothing happened, then he discovered that through ancestry he was eligible to play for the Republic of Ireland and made up his mind to switch the dream of a white shirt for the reality of a green one.

Now he is a favourite with the fans, yet remains the Ghost of White Hart Lane.

**STAR
WRITER**

PAUL McSTAY

BRING on Brian Clough . . . that was the chant from the Parkhead dressing room when we were told we had drawn Nottingham Forest in the UEFA Cup Third Round.

Personally, I can't wait for the first-leg at the City Ground on Wednesday, Nov 23. Everyone at Parkhead believes Celtic can do something in Europe this season and if we want to win the trophy we must beat the best teams at some stage or another.

We won't need to be motivated for this one against Forest and, let's face it, a game against English opponents is a lot better than travelling behind the Iron Curtain where all sorts of strange things can happen.

Celtic had a difficult task in the previous round when we played Sporting Lisbon of Portugal. Honestly, they are an exceptional team and in front of 70,000 of their own fans in Lisbon they gave us a tough time of it in the first-leg.



Nicholas will boost Celtic

The goals from Jordao put us under extreme pressure, but we overwhelmed them at Parkhead in the return. Manager David Hay said it was our finest display since he took over.

We won 5-0 that evening and could have gone on to score double figures. Anyone at Parkhead that night would surely agree with that. As well as scoring five, we also had another four cleared off the line.

Brian McClair also had one ruled out by the Belgian referee for an infringement that, for the life of me, I couldn't fathom, and several other efforts were only inches out as they whistled down on the overworked goalkeeper.

We hope to keep Dutch international Hans van Breukelen every bit as busy in our games against Forest and if we have a

similar 5-2 aggregate scoreline we'll all be delighted.

Forest, of course, are formidable opposition and they must have done exceptionally to beat PSV Eindhoven home and away in the previous round.

The Dutch club have only been beaten three times on their own soil in European football and that's a great record. Ironically, all three losses have come against British opposition — Forest, Rangers and Dundee United.

The boss, Mr Hay, will take a close look at Forest and we'll be well informed about them by the time kick-off comes around on Wednesday.

What do I know about Forest? Well, any team that has done so well in Europe in the past few years must be respected and, of course, they have several top class



players. I even had a short spell with the club as a youngster, but I was never going to sign for anyone else once Celtic came in for me.

Ian Wallace has the knack of scoring vital goals for them, but we should know all about how he plays . . . our own Graeme Sinclair was a former team-mate of Ian's at Dundee United.

Possibly my old mate Charlie Nicholas — that name crops up everywhere, doesn't it? — will telephone me to talk about Forest.

Arsenal beat Forest 4-1 at Highbury last month and maybe Charlie can give us a few hints.

Nothing will be left to chance, however. It's time Celtic made our name in Europe again and,

thankfully, we have reserved some of our best form for the UEFA Cup this season.

In the First Round we came up against a ten-man defence when we played Denmark's Aarhus at Parkhead. We only managed one goal at home, but we opened up in the second-leg to win 4-1 over there and that was a splendid result.

Danish football was on an all-time high at the time after the international side's European Championship victory over England at Wembley the previous week.

But we got our act together and had a superb away victory. A repeat would be welcome against Clough and Col.

Celtic have got a good record against English opposition over the years and we intend to maintain that run. Before the draw we were talking about the possibility of playing Spurs and we would have welcomed that tie, too.

We drew 1-1 with the White Hart Lane club in a friendly at Parkhead before the start of the season and I don't think we did ourselves justice at all.

Opportunity

We were still getting used to playing without Charlie Nicholas and we were giving first team outings to new boys Jim Melrose and Brian McClair, as well as taking the opportunity of bringing in young Jim Dobbie for the second-half.

I believe we could have played better and I'd have liked Spurs and their fans to have seen the real Celtic. Still, maybe we will get that opportunity later in the tournament if we beat Forest and they can get past Bayern Munich.

We're not looking too far ahead, of course. That would be suicide. Nottingham Forest are a top class side with fine players and it's going to be a difficult and tricky hurdle.

But a repeat of the form that demolished Sporting Lisbon will surely see us safely booking a place in the Quarter-Final draw.

Anyway, the talking will stop on Wednesday as a Scotland v England confrontation takes place. I hope both ties are a good advert for soccer. I'm certain they will be, and I hope the best team wins. And I hope that team plays in green and-white hoops!

Paul McStay

NOBBY

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IAN BOWYER

The New Forest

AS Brian Clough rebuilds Nottingham Forest, one player stands at the core of his plans — Ian Bowyer. At 32 the versatile and consistent Bowyer is still a big influence on the side, operating from midfield to control the stem and flow of their game.

One brief and unsuccessful spell with Sunderland apart, Bowyer has been a key figure in the growth and development of Forest under Clough since Dave Mackay signed him from Orient in October, 1973.

Shoot talked to 'Mr Forest' about their new-look side and their ambitions to return to the top.

SHOOT: How close is the current Forest squad to emulating the tremendous achievements of the team that dominated the late 1970's?

BOWYER: It is unfair to make such a comparison because we have a lot of young players coming through, some of whom are already making a big impact in the first team — lads such as Steve Wigley, Colin Walsh, Peter Davenport and Steve Hodge.

SHOOT: But do you see signs of a new and successful Forest in the making?

BOWYER: Definitely! And I would not say so if it were not the case. I have been at Forest long enough to know the difference. Already I am impressed that we are in the top half of the First Division and making progress in Europe, despite adjusting to a number of changes.

SHOOT: Just how many changes have you had to make in the side since the summer of 1982?

BOWYER: We have lost Peter Shilton, John Robertson, David Needham, Einar Aas, Willie Young and John McGovern. I'm talking about quality, experienced players.

SHOOT: So how does Brian Clough motivate the youngsters, settle them into the First Division and still go flat-out for success?

BOWYER: The boss is not the type of man to ever settle for so-called transitional spells. No matter what the competition or opposition he plans to go about winning every game, one at a time. We never look beyond that. And as for motivation, I don't think the word is appropriate.

SHOOT: So how would you describe his methods?

BOWYER: If you asked 100 players who had played for Brian Clough in the past if they would play for him again, 95 would say "Yes". He is popular with players who recognise his honesty and no-nonsense

approach. He is also very knowledgeable about the game and does not miss a single thing during a match. You cannot hide, nor can you get away with waffle. He cuts through excuses and gets down to facts. So players play for Brian Clough because they respect him. We don't need lengthy pep-talks or whips cracked.

SHOOT: You have experienced a wealth of success under Clough. Which moment is your most treasured?

BOWYER: Winning the European Cup for the second time, in 1980. We beat SV Hamburg 1-0 in Spain, Kevin Keegan and all. And I believe we started out as underdogs. The first Final, against Malmö in West Germany, was not so memorable. Too many people made up their minds that we would win just by going on to the pitch. That was far from the case, but the attitude stuck.

SHOOT: What was your biggest disappointment?

BOWYER: It came the same year as Hamburg — we lost a mediocre League Cup Final 1-0 to Wolves, conceded a daft goal and lost the opportunity of winning a hat-trick of Finals and, as it turned out, a League Cup-European Cup double.

SHOOT: What was the turning point in your career?

BOWYER: Without question when Dave Mackay signed me from Orient in 1973. And when Brian Clough took over in 1976, things really took off. People tend to forget that I won European Cup-Winners' Cup and League Cup winners' medals with Manchester City before moving to Orient. But I was too young to appreciate all that success. I was lucky enough to get a second taste of the top under Clough.

SHOOT: What was the worst injury you have suffered?

BOWYER: I tore knee ligaments in April, 1981, and did not play again until September — six months of painful recovery.

SHOOT: Given a free choice, which position would you choose to play?

BOWYER: As an out and out striker. I have never lost the enthusiasm for playing up front. In all competitions I have knocked in 15 goals for City, 22 for Orient, one while I was with Sunderland and, to date, 68 for Forest. That's 106 goals and I've been in midfield for Forest since Brian Clough called me into his office back in 1976 and discussed a selection problem.

SHOOT: What was the background to that?

BOWYER: He had three forwards — Barry Butlin, John O'Hare and me. He wanted to use all three of us but one of us had to drop back into midfield. When I got the call I discovered it was me. No complaints! The man could have been calling me in to tell me I was out of his team.

SHOOT: What is your current ambition?

BOWYER: To win a UEFA Cup winners' medal this season and complete a unique treble of European competition wins. I also want us to return to those heady days of the League title in 1978. Unforgettable!



GOOD news for the fans and bad news for defenders... the hit-men are out in force!

How good it is to read headlines about goals and strikers as opposed to depressing tales of financial problems and managers.

I'm the first to admit that fans want success as well as entertaining. The age-old claim that fans will turn up if their side is recording 6-4 results only stands up if they end up winning.

But people pay to watch exciting football, goals and skilful play. And this season is turning out to be just their cup of tea.

Ian Rush has got this terrible habit of scoring — one he has had since joining Liverpool from Chester. We were all pleased for him and proud of him when he hammered five past Luton.

Imagine our astonishment when we realised that Arsenal's gifted striker Tony Woodcock had also scored five... away to Aston Villa!

I enjoyed the Luton game for more reasons than the obvious one of winning so handsomely. I was impressed by Luton's approach and courage. They came out to attack us, a policy that has secured them some tremendous results since winning promotion two seasons ago.

And two young strikers really impressed me — despite not scoring a goal between them on the day, Paul Walsh and Brian Stein.

STAR WRITER

KENNY DALGLISH

They looked skilful, mobile and fast, prepared to hunt out chances for 90 minutes, never allowing our defence a moment of peace.

The importance of team-work must never be forgotten when talking about goalscoring, but there is no doubt in my mind that scorers are born, not made.

Instinct

There is no way you can teach a player to get into positions such as those that strikers take up during a game by sheer instinct.

Bob Latchford is the perfect example. Last season he scored no fewer than 25 goals in all competitions for Swansea City. Yet his team was relegated! That is what I call really impressive finishing and consistency.

Frank Stapleton is enjoying a real purple patch these days, proving again what a quality

I was really impressed by Luton's attacking approach at Anfield — even though we beat them 6-0!

player the big Dubliner is Manchester United have a reputation for attacking, entertaining football and Frank thrives off such style.

I'm delighted for my Scotland colleague Steve Archibald. I read about his personal disagreement with his club, but frankly, Spurs must be very impressed by the way he has shaken off the publicity and unavoidable fuss.

Steve is showing what a sharp and dangerous striker he is once more and neither venue nor opposition appear to matter to him.

Speaking about strikers, I'm beginning to wonder if Reading have some secret formula for unearthing marksmen.

Kerry Dixon's transfer to Chelsea and the move into a higher division has had no effect on him whatsoever. Dixon's name keeps appearing on the score sheet and is undoubtedly one good reason why Chelsea are riding high again.

But any fears the Reading fans had that Dixon's departure would leave an unfillable gap have been dispelled by Trevor Senior, who began his career with non-League



Straight shooting from JIMMY GREAVES

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This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Romano Mella of Marett Lane, St. Martin's in Guernsey. He writes:

PAY UP... OR SELL UP

I feel that John Wark and Paul Mariner are completely out of order demanding a pay rise from Ipswich even though they're already earning £1,000 a week. What has either player done in the past year to deserve an increase?



There are always two sides to any arguments about a footballer's wages. The players themselves will insist that it is their duty to earn as much as possible during their career, because one nasty tackle could put them out for good and even at best they're only going to be at the top for ten years. But obviously if the club cannot afford to pay them more, then they'll just have to sell them to someone who can meet those demands. Wark and Mariner rub shoulders with other internationals who're getting paid twice as much for doing exactly the same job. Wark is worth just as much to Ipswich as, say, Bryan Robson's to Manchester United. So why shouldn't he get the same wages? I sympathise with Ipswich, but there is no team in Britain who wouldn't want John Wark in their side. So they'll either have to pay him more or set him go.



World-class

Congratulations to Tony Woodcock on his five-goal performance at Aston Villa. Now who says Arsenal are boring?

BILL WALSH, ISLINGTON, LONDON N1



I was delighted for Tony, and, believe it or not, I was also delighted for Arsenal. Woodcock is a world class player and when fully fit should be an automatic choice for England. And I'm glad to see Arsenal starting to change their image. They've worked hard and when Charlie Nicholas really finds his feet I think The Gunners could be a side to watch.

Penalty prize

I was very annoyed by Leicester's Milk Cup defeat at Chelsea on penalties. This is a most unsatisfactory method of settling important Cup ties.

CHRISTOPHER MENEZ, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS.



Would you be so annoyed if Leicester had won? I agree that penalties are not the ideal solution, but with so many fixtures you can't allow one match to drag on indefinitely. And at least penalties are some sort of test of nerve and skill, which is more than can be said for the old method of tossing a coin.

HIT PARADE

Frank Stapleton is enjoying a purple patch with Manchester United this season.



Dorchester, moved to Portsmouth and really took off when he moved to Elm Park.

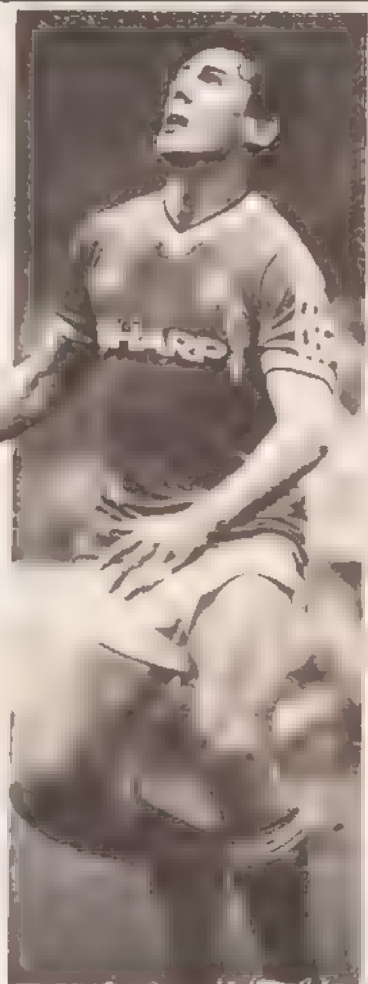
Trevor's goals are rattling in and he could prove to be another lad with the ability to knock them past keepers at any level. Because that's what I happen to believe is the make up of goalscorers.

Kevin Keegan proved it, moving from Scunthorpe to Liverpool. Dixon is already doing the business in West London and countless lads such as Andy Gray,

Cyrille Regis, Peter Withe and Mick Harford have proved consistent scorers as they have climbed through the game's levels.

One player I'm convinced will bear out my argument is Charlie Nicholas at Arsenal. All players have lean spells. Charlie has simply started with one. If he'd scored eight or nine goals early on then dried up for a time, nobody would have turned a hair.

*Ken
Dalglish*



Send for Steve

What more must Southampton skipper Steve Williams do to win an England place? He's one of the finest footballers around

HELEN BLYTHE,
PORTSMOUTH.



Steve (left) won one cap in Australia and, like a hundred other League players, has a claim to be in the right place at the right time, he might get a chance in a 'proper' international. If he's really lucky, he might get more than one chance.

Give Brazil a chance

Is the Spurs team so strong that they can afford to do without Alan Brazil? His goalscoring record at Ipswich was first class, but he isn't getting a chance at White Hart Lane

PETER MELLOR,
LINTHORPE, CLEVELAND



Brazil didn't start the season well and lost a bit of confidence. Spurs happen to have a number of very good reserves ready to step in, and in this case Steve Archibald has taken over superbly. Mark Falco has done the same with Garth Crooks, and now those players out of favour must make sure they take their chances when they come. Brazil (right) has been making noises about leaving, and he knows that Manchester United and Everton would both willingly sign him.



Greig's grief

Following 22 years as player and manager at Rangers, I think it's terrible that John Greig has been hounded out of the club he loves. Whoever takes over from him will never have as much affection for the club

MARK MEHARRY,
BANGOR, CO. DOWN



I've been trying to think of a greater one-club servant than John Greig but haven't been able to come up with a single name. Even the great Tom Finney, who spent his entire playing career with Preston, couldn't match his loyalty. Maybe Greig wasn't the man to manage Rangers, I don't really know. But it's nothing short of tragic that the fans who once worshipped him have now forced him out of a job which obviously meant so much to him. And as Rangers are now discovering, he's not an easy man to replace.

Dear John...

John Toshack's departure from Swansea without claiming any compensation was typical of a man who's done so much for the club. And giving £1,000 to help their youth team further proves he's always had Swansea's best interests at heart.

SUSAN BALLION,
RYHOPE, TYNE & WEAR.



John left the club with a great deal of dignity, and his parting gift was a magnificent gesture. It seems that he was responsible for quite a few of Swansea's current problems, but Tosh is the first to admit he's not perfect. He worked miracles getting them from the Fourth to the First Division, and that achievement should not be forgotten despite their current plight.

Wembley's wrong

England's record in the European Championship qualifiers proves our players are intimidated by Wembley while opponents are lifted by it. We should switch our games to Old Trafford, Anfield or Hillsborough. Then we'd get real home results

DAVID RANDALL,
BROMLEY, KENT



International football should be played at a national stadium, and for England that's Wembley. I played there more than 20 times and it's much better than any other ground in the country. As far as I'm concerned, there should be no question of moving. If any player is intimidated by Wembley, he might as well peck up international football



Video nasty

You're wrong to claim Noel Blake shouldn't be convicted by TV evidence for butting Steve McMahon. Violent play must be stopped once and for all, so it shouldn't matter how such incidents are brought to the attention of the FA.

GAVIN RAE,

SELLY PARK, BIRMINGHAM



But McMahon has only escaped further punishment for an appalling foul on Kevan Broadhurst because the cameras didn't capture the incident quite so graphically. I'm not for one moment condoning Blake's behaviour, but McMahon has played since that Villa v Birmingham game and Broadhurst hasn't. No official complaints were made to the FA about Blake yet he's still in hot water. I'm not against TV film being used to support a complaint, but it's very dangerous to use film as the basis for that complaint. What's to stop me video filming a game and selecting incidents simply to get certain players into trouble?

The third part of an enthralling series in which **Shoot** goes behind the scenes to examine specialist soccer jobs. This week

THE PHYSIOTHERAPIST ...
MIKE VARNEY
(Tottenham Hotspur).

The Star Treatment

THE physical demands of modern football mean that I am kept fully occupied for every minute of my time at the club. But Thursday is probably the most lively and interesting day.

With the Saturday match only 48 hours away the pressure is on me, as the manager wants a decision on the fitness of injured players.

After rising early and walking my dog I leave my Enfield home at 9 o'clock and arrive at the Cheshunt training ground some 15 minutes later.

I have a meeting with manager Keith Burkinshaw and his assistant Peter Shreeves to talk them through the injuries and how they are progressing.

We also discuss the planning and preparation of the training schedules. I am very involved in that and am allowed to give advice.

The meeting goes on until 10 o'clock, when the injured players arrive for treatment. That is given at Cheshunt, where I have a full size treatment room in a Portecabin.

These facilities are something that I insisted on. For all the work is done at the training ground so it makes sense to be able to treat players there.

Apart from injuries suffered in matches a lot happens during training. So valuable time could be lost if we had to get players back to White Hart Lane to attend to them.

The treatments usually last for an hour, then we begin a programme of rehabilitation. This is very intensive and very hard and shoots down

the theory that injured players do no more than climb off the treatment table and go home.

If a player is suffering from a hamstring injury, for instance, it means he can't run. But he can do other things — like tough abdominal exercise, cycling and swimming. And I make sure that's what they do, so they are working flat-out.

This goes on till lunch, around 12.30, and if I feel more treatment would be of benefit we go back to White Hart Lane to continue for another hour.

Progress

Then I talk again with Burkinshaw and Shreeves to explain the progress we have made. The reserves and youth team coaches are brought into it, and that's when the teams for Saturday are basically decided.

Of course there are occasions when the

manager will want a decision on a key player left as late as possible and if a lad has a chance of playing I will continue treatment right the way through.

But decisions are invariably left to me. I'm the one who carries out fitness tests and I make them so demanding that if there is the slightest doubt I will soon know about it.

We never take any risks with injuries. If a player is not 100 per cent fit, we won't risk him in a big match.

I also run a private clinic in Enfield and after leaving the ground around 5.15pm go back there two evenings a week to treat local sportsmen.

And I will work on Sunday mornings if we have picked up injuries on the Saturday and have a match in midweek. If we don't I will treat the players on Saturday evening, making sure they are OK till Monday morning.

As you can imagine, it's quite a hectic life!

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THE GOALPOST

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JOHN Neal might look an amiable sort of character, sitting quietly at his desk, puffing contentedly at his cigarettes.

But half a dozen former Chelsea players will vouch for the iron fist which Neal hides beneath his desk; seldom used, but a real knock-out weapon when called into action.

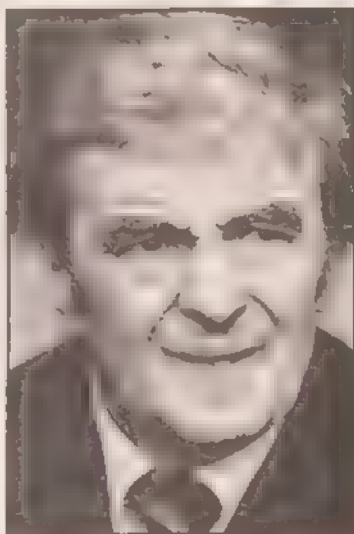
Neal, instigator of the Chelsea purge this past summer, says quietly: "Something had to be done. The chairman knew it and so did I."

"He came to me late last season when we were struggling to avoid relegation and promised to make the money available for a clear-out. I knew it was the right decision."

"Certain players here had lost all sense of reality. It was all right for them to leave here, join their mates and be consoled when their pals put an arm around their shoulders and said 'Don't worry, you're still the greatest'."

"I didn't think they were the greatest, far from it. But they

Stamford Bridge revolution



brought up with really good players at Middlesbrough and I knew what quality players were."

The essence of Chelsea's potential this season is the vast squad collected by John Neal. Injuries will surely not wreck Chelsea's challenge this winter with players of the calibre of Micky Droy, Tony McAndrew, Chris Hutchings, Clive Walker and Peter Rhoades-Brown ready to come in.

"That was one of the major considerations when we altered things so drastically in the summer," adds Neal. "You must have a big squad to cover for the injuries."

Now Chelsea are reaping the benefit of Neal's long, hot summer at The Bridge. The players may achieve their success next spring. That's how close Chelsea are to a success formula at Stamford Bridge.

win games because of the confidence he has instilled.

"I'm still waiting for a chance of getting back into the first team. There is not a lot I can do while they keep winning — you can't change a successful side. But it's a Catch-22 situation, because I'd love to see Chelsea keep winning and go through to a promotion place."

"Everything is bubbling at Chelsea — it's marvellous to see."

But Hudson is by no means sure that modern day football is as appealing as the game he loved a decade back.

"It has changed so much and for the worse. When I see a player like Glenn Hoddle changing his natural style so that he will be picked for England, I despair."

"We ought to be begging Hoddle to produce his most exciting form all the time. If every player had Hoddle's style and flair, we would have a terrific international side."

HOW KNOCK-OUT NEAL SAVED CHELSEA

Paul Canoville is one of the talented youngsters who survived John Neal's purge and is now at the forefront of the Chelsea revival.

'Bubbling Blues'

— ALAN HUDSON

ALAN Hudson was a Chelsea favourite during the good times at Stamford Bridge. Once classed as the best youngster ever produced by the club's youth system, Hudson flowered, but briefly, as Chelsea won the F.A. Cup and then European Cup-Winners' Cup at the start of the 80's.

All too soon, he was gone; sold off by Dave Sexton, who broke up that winning side.

But Hudson got a dream return to his old club this summer when his involvement in American football came to an end. And now, safely back at Stamford Bridge and bidding for more first team appearances, he says: "My old team-mate, John Hollins, is the one who has done so much to improve Chelsea's position."

"John has been marvellous because he's such a consistent competitor. He has convinced the young players that they are good enough to beat any side they face — they go out expecting to

Scotland but still thinking about the pieces I had to collect to complete the jigsaw."

They came from far and wide: Nigel Spackman from Bournemouth, Joe McLaughlin from Morton, Hollins from Arsenal, Pat Nevin from Clyde, Kerry Dixon (Reading), Eddie Niedzwiecki (Wrexham), Derek Johnstone (Rangers) and Alan Hudson from the United States. A hotch-potch mixture which Neal has turned into a Championship chasing side in Division Two.

"Considering it is such a new team, they have done marvellously so far," admits cautious Neal.

"You expect a period of adaptation, a settling-in period. But this side has got together so well and so quickly that we seem to have hit it off straightaway."

Neal knew what he wanted when he went shopping. "Honest, sensible professionals who wanted to work and didn't think they were the best. I had been



couldn't see it themselves and wouldn't listen when we told them the blunt truth.

"I don't say much, I'm a quiet bloke. But when I do, I like people to listen, because I have a lot of experience in the game and have something to offer in terms of advice. But these players wouldn't listen to anyone, except their mates. They lived in a dream world and wouldn't come back to reality."

The purge ousted the old faces who were not doing the job. In their place came down-to-earth realists like John Hollins, once a Stamford Bridge favourite before further spells in London at QPR and Arsenal.

Several others arrived because, as Neal says: "The chairman offered to put up the money — and you don't hesitate when you're given a chance like that."

John Neal's summer holiday lasted just seven days. He recalls "I spent those days golfing in



Hudson rates Chelsea youngsters Colin Pates and Paul Canoville as the pick of the bunch.

"Canoville would be special even without his blistering pace. And if Chelsea get back to the First Division, Pates could develop into an England player, he is that good."

Others, such as a midfield lad named Dale Jasper, have also caught Hudson's eye. But Hudson has enough experience to say: "It's no good people talking about a great side at this time. When we get back to the First Division and are doing well — that's the time to think about being a great side."

"If Chelsea can recapture some of the missing flair and entertainment, people will come from far and wide to watch. Kids in this country have been absolutely ruined."

"At Chelsea, it looks as though we are just starting to reverse that trend but it will be a heck of a job to achieve throughout football."

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BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, 19th November

Arsenal v Everton

ALMOST exactly a year ago Everton, thanks to a goal from Andy King, appeared to be on their way to their first League victory at Highbury in eight visits before Brian McDermott saved a point for the home side. Everton, like so many other sides, find goals difficult to get on this ground and have only scored as many as two goals in four of their last 20 visits. The most recent occasion was a 2-2 draw in 1978-79.

A. Villa v Leicester

STRUGGLING Leicester have probably done as well at Villa Park as they have on any ground in recent years, with six wins and three draws in 15 post-War League visits. But they have failed to score a single goal in any of their last three games on this ground.

QPR v Birmingham

RANGERS have only beaten Birmingham once in their last 15 League meetings. That was in January, 1976 when Don Masson scored both goals in a 2-1 home victory. Since then Birmingham have succeeded in drawing three out of four visits.

Not'm. Forest v Ipswich

THIS will be Ipswich's 17th League game at the City Ground, where they have won four and drawn three. Last season Russell Osman had the misfortune to head into his own net to give Forest a 2-1 home win.

Aberdeen v Hearts

THE DONS have won their last three home Premier Division games against Hearts with a goals tally of 10-1. Hearts last won (2-1) at Pittodrie in 1978-79. Since then Alex Hamill scored their only Premier Division goal on this ground.

Rangers v Dundee Utd.

LAST TIME United won a League game at Ibrox, they made a thorough job of it. That was three seasons ago when they shook Rangers 4-1. Since then they have drawn twice in five Premier Division visits but have never scored more than a single goal in these games.

BRYAN ROBSON

COMPETITION RESULT

IN our Bryan Robson Competition, readers were invited to answer three questions about Bryan Robson. The correct answers were: 1 — West Bromwich Albion, 2 — 1981, 3 — The Republic of Ireland

Having considered all entries, the judges awarded the First Prizes to the senders of the five neatest correct entries with age taken into account. These winners, who receive a pair of New Balance 906 boots, are: David Meyler, of Rosslare Strand, Eire; Carl Mullins, of York; Andrew Nash, of Matlock; Russell Wapples, of Leicester; and David Watton, of Birmingham.

The following 10 entrants each win Second Prizes of a pair of New Balance 706 boots:

Mark Ashenden, Salisbury; David Bell, Drumadnoch; He en Crocker, Bristol; Darren Ferreday, Chesterfield; Gary Pascoe, Redruth; Steven Raw, Hawes; Craig Swanston, Bury; Ian Wharfedale, Bob Webster, Sunderland; Ian Wilcox, Bolton; Allan Woodcock, Rotherham.

We regret that there is insufficient space to list the 100 runners up, who each win a full colour Bryan Robson poster.

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Brighton (h) 0-1

MILK CUP

Leeds (a) 1-0 (Varadi)
Leeds (h) AET 1-4 (Clarke)



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December, 1980
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Villa in May, 1980
League Goals: Jackie Milburn — 178 (1946-57)
League Appearances: Jim Lawrence — 432

W. left to right: Ian McFaul (coach), Steve
McDonald, Wes Saunders, Martin
Jeff Clarke, Kevin Carr, Chris Waddle, Chris
Peter Haddock, Ian Liversedge (physio)

OW: John Anderson, Imre Varadi (now
John Ryan, Kevin Keegan, Arthur Cox,
Terry McDermott, David McCreery, John
Kenny Wharton.



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Going... Going... UP?

Is this Newcastle United's promotion season? With The Magpies lying second in the table at the start of November the prospects look bright, but there is a long way to go and in recent years the team has consistently failed to stay the course. United's no-nonsense boss, Arthur Cox, is well aware of past shortcomings, and the number of players he has signed since the summer of 1982 indicates his determination to achieve a regular

winning streak.

In addition to the arrival of star signing Kevin Keegan at St James' Park, Terry McDermott, David McCreery, John Ryan, Malcolm Brown and Peter Beardsley have all been bought by Cox.

So far this term, the influx of the expensive talent acquired has secured the right results at St. James'. And this has been accomplished in spite of the departure of top-scorer Imre Varadi to Sheffield Wednesday, causing criticism which has been muted lately as Newcastle have picked up the points.

But more upsetting than the Varadi transfer was the early-season dismay among the United fans created by the bombshell news that Keegan had a clause in his new one-year contract that would allow him to leave Newcastle if promotion seemed unlikely.

Recently, however, Keegan has made it clear that come what may, he will stay with United for the remainder of 1983-84 and may even be prepared to sign for a third season at St James' Park.

With this assurance from the ex-England skipper, the morale of the team has been given a huge boost. If this confidence is linked with performance, United could be back in Division One next year.

The Manager... ...24 hour Cox

ARTHUR Cox, the fully committed Newcastle United boss who works around the clock for his club, has seen tangible results for his efforts with the team firmly placed among the promotion contenders in the early stages of the season.

And he says: "We are doing alright but we can do better. Sometimes our football is good, out of this world — then we do some wrong things and our performance falls short."

"The way I see it, you have to think big with this club. The support we get from our terrific fans, and our tradition, demands it. We can't afford to slacken up."

"Which is why I still want extra

cover, especially up front. We've five forwards to call on. Kevin Keegan, who can also operate in midfield, Chris Waddle, Peter Beardsley, Paul Ferris and David Mills — and I would like one more, not necessarily a player who would cost a lot of money.

"A good local youngster would do, and with a squad of 17 players I will be ensuring as far as possible that we are equipped to deal with replacement problems caused through injuries or suspensions. In addition, I look for players who can fill more than one role on the field."

"At the moment our morale is first class and we are heading in the right direction. We must keep it that way."

to find they had no opponents! The Walsall players were on strike in their dressing-room because of a pay dispute. They were finally persuaded to play but the game started so late that it had to be abandoned through bad light, with Newcastle leading 3-2. The League ruled that the result should stand.

5 In 1904-05, Newcastle pipped Everton for the League title by one point. They became known as the "Fog Champions". Everton were beating Woolwich Arsenal 3-1 when fog forced an abandonment of the game. When they replayed at the end of the season, Arsenal won 2-1 and so Newcastle became Champions.

6 League leaders Newcastle crashed to an unbelievable 9-1 home defeat against Sunderland in December, 1906. It was 1-1 with 20 minutes to go when the Newcastle defence came apart at the seams. Sunderland scored five of their goals in the last eight minutes, with Billy Hogg netting four times and George Holley scoring a hat-trick. But United still finished the season as Champions.

7 F.A. Cup holders Newcastle were held to a 1-1 draw by Northampton in a Second Round tie at St James' Park in 1910-11. They paid Northampton, then a non-League club, £500 to stage the replay at St James', won 1-0 and went on to reach the Final. Northampton were managed by a



The Captain... ...King Kevin

KEVIN Keegan, Newcastle United skipper and the player who has brought the big time back to St. James' Park, will consider his team's promotion chances bright if they can maintain their position in the top four until Christmas.

Says Kevin: "The sides who were heading Division Two at the start of November are my choice to be battling it out in the final stages of the season."

"They are Sheffield Wednesday, Manchester City, Newcastle and Chelsea, and one of the four is obviously going to be disappointed."

"I like to think it won't be Newcastle, because after overcoming the hurdle of losing Jeff Clarke and Kevin Carr through injury we seemed to play with extra determination and picked up useful points."

"In addition, I'm delighted about the signing of Peter Beardsley, who I believe has a great future. He has quickly settled down with us, and will make a tremendous difference to our performances."

Keegan himself, of course, is the man the Newcastle fans look to as the club's biggest motivator, and his decision to stay with Newcastle until the end of the season at least has been joyfully received on Tyneside.

"I never had any intention of turning my back on the club, and I want to help get United out of the Second Division, which is what I said when I came here."

It's Amazing

1 Newcastle were founded in 1882 when two bitter rivals — East End and West End — buried their differences and became United. They joined the League after moving from a cramped ground at Heaton to spacious headquarters at St. James' Park. A sloping pitch and early gate receipts for one match of 7s 11d (37p) did not deter them and after levelling out the pitch they started to put together a remarkable F.A. Cup record.

2 Soon after the turn of the century they played in five F.A. Cup Finals in seven seasons at Crystal Palace but found it an unhappy hunting ground. They failed to win any of the Finals and their only success came in a replay at Everton. But in the same period they won the League Championship three times.

3 It's at Wembley where Newcastle have an outstanding F.A. Cup record. They have won five out of their six F.A. Cup Finals, including three in five years in the 1950's. In 1952 they became the first team this century to retain the F.A. Cup.

4 Newcastle's players ran out on to the pitch ready for their Second Division match at Walsall in 1884 only

to find they had no opponents! The Walsall players were on strike in their dressing-room because of a pay dispute. They were finally persuaded to play but the game started so late that it had to be abandoned through bad light, with Newcastle leading 3-2. The League ruled that the result should stand.

8 After missing a first-minute penalty, Newcastle went on to beat Newport County 12-0 in a Second Division home match on October 5, 1944 to equal the highest Football League score. Len Shackleton, bought from Bradford P.A. for £13,000, made a sensational debut scoring six of United's goals.

9 Newcastle won the first Football League match played under floodlights when they beat Portsmouth 2-0 in a First Division match at Fratton Park on February 22, 1956.

10 Spectators invaded the pitch when Newcastle defender Pat Howard was sent-off during an F.A. Cup Quarter-Final tie against Nottingham Forest at St. James' Park in 1974. Newcastle came from 3-1 down to win 4-3 after a 20-minute hold-up. They were ordered to replay the game at Goodison and the match ended in a 0-0 draw. Newcastle won the second replay 1-0 and went on to reach the Final at Wembley, where they were beaten 3-0 by Liverpool.

CUP CRACKERS

Drawn by
Paul Trevillion

RICKY VILLA

RICKY VILLA'S great run through the Manchester City defence in the 1981 F.A. Cup Final replay has rightly gone down in Wembley history.

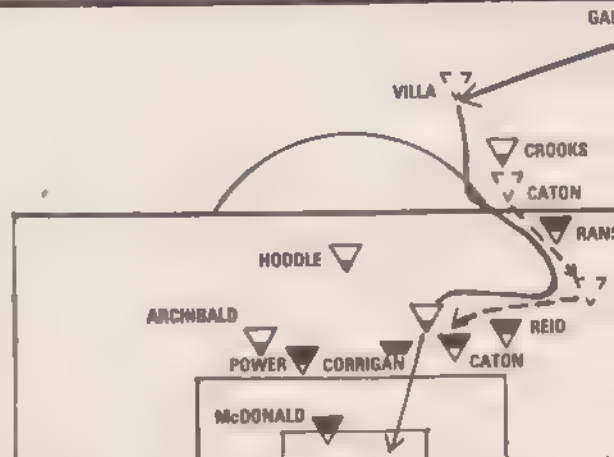
He had looked a pathetic sight as he trudged towards the dressing room after being substituted by Spurs in the first game. But, as so often happens in football, that despair was to turn to delight.

"Tony Galvin gave me the ball from the left and I started to run," says Ricky. "The funny thing is that I mis-hit the final shot but that probably helped!"

"That was the most exciting night of my career. The replay changed my life completely because I am not sure that Spurs were ready to offer me a new contract at the time."

In the white-hot confines of a Cup-tie, goals are always at a premium. Just one chance can decide the issue, but accepting that opportunity takes a brave heart as much as finishing power.

Here Shoot talks to six players who produced goals at crucial moments ...



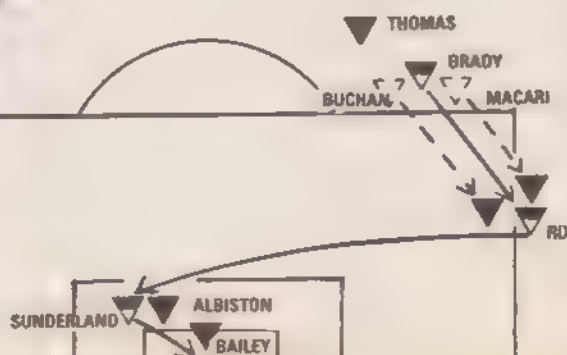
ALAN SUNDERLAND

ALAN SUNDERLAND'S late F.A. Cup Final winner against Manchester United at Wembley in 1979 mirrored all the drama of a thrilling tie.

With two minutes remaining, and United back on level terms after going 2-0 down, Arsenal fashioned a real team goal in which Liam Brady was the catalyst.

"That has to go down as my most important goal because I remember that we were coasting and suddenly United came back with two quick goals," says Sunderland.

"I went blank, but Chippy set off on a run in the inside-left position, beat three players and passed to Graham Rix. He knocked over a first-time cross, Gary Bailey missed his punch and I was left with an open goal, but from a very tight angle."



TERRY McDERMOTT

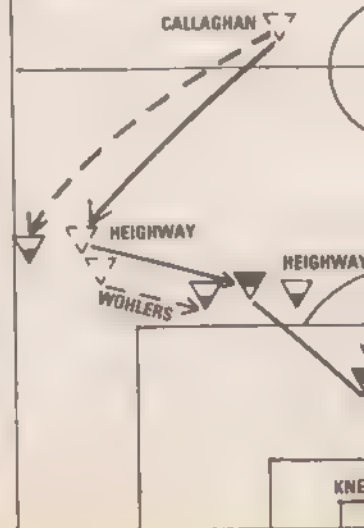
MANY MEMORABLE goals are of the type that the textbooks cannot teach. But equally impressive, because of the teamwork involved, was Terry McDermott's opener for Liverpool in the European Cup Final in Rome in 1977 against Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"Looking back, that has to be the most important goal for me," agrees Terry. "I have scored better but in terms of sheer importance of the occasion that one stands out."

"I'm supposed to be a player renowned for making these late runs. But they are pointless unless the ball is played in at the right time," he continues.

"Steve Heighway cut in from the right and laid on a brilliant ball which bounced just right for me to finish it off."

"It's moments like that goal that stay with you for ever."



GLENN HOODLE

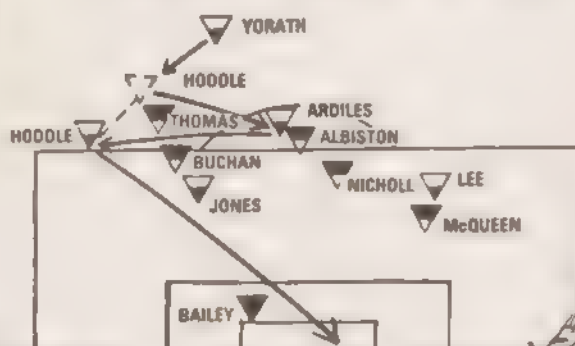


marvelous volley for Spurs in a League Cup clash against Manchester United at White Hart Lane in 1979 stands out way ahead of the rest.

From a Terry Yorath free-kick, Hoddle played a one-two with Ossie Ardiles and leapt into the air to power the ball past Gary Bailey.

"I concentrate on timing and accuracy rather than power," explains Glenn. "But there was some indecision when I played that one-two with Ossie because the ball came to me a bit high."

"I wasn't sure if I should take it first time but I am glad that I settled on the shot. It may have looked rehearsed but it was totally off the cuff."



KENNY DALGLISH

A YEAR after winning in Rome, Liverpool were back to retain the European Cup with a 1-0 win over Bruges at Wembley in May, 1980.

The maestro, Kenny Dalglish, broke the deadlock with a goal that illustrated his ability to improvise in tight situations.

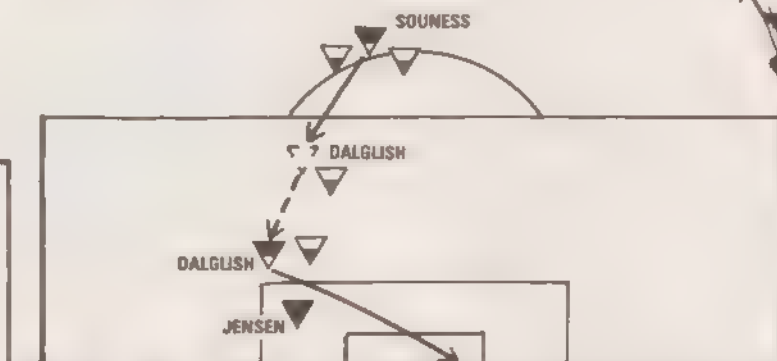
Jensen, the Bruges goalkeeper, had saved everything the Scottish international could produce that night. But this time Dalglish deigned just long enough to lure him off his line and then chipped his shot inside the far post.

Dalglish refuses to list his goals in any order claiming that "the next one is the

most important." But he has a clear memory of that Wembley build-up.

"I had tried an overhead kick which was headed clear," he recalls. "Graeme Souness collected the ball on the edge of the box, played a pass through to me and I lifted it over the goalkeeper and into the net."

"But it didn't matter who scored — that was a special night for the whole side."



DENNIS TUEART

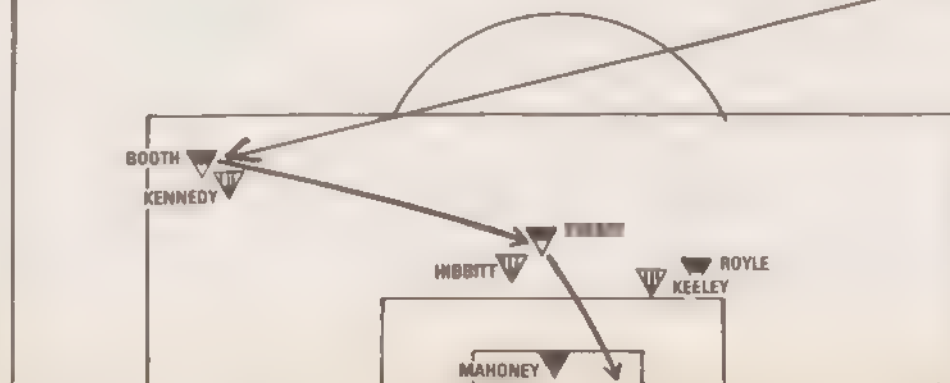
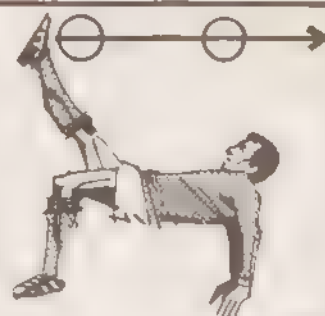
CUP FINALS, by their very nature, often need a special goal to decide a very tight issue.

Dennis Tueart produced exactly that during Manchester City's 2-1 League Cup Final win over Newcastle in February, 1976, with the Wembley backcloth adding a magical aura.

The initial move was well practised as Willie Donachie sent over a long cross and Tommy Booth rose at the far post

to head the ball back. With superb grace, Tueart fashioned a flamboyant piece of improvisation with an overhead kick that sent the ball inside the post.

"That was the best goal I have ever scored," says Tueart. "You can't ask for more than to score a spectacular goal to decide a Wembley Cup Final in front of a 100,000 crowd."



THE board of Sydney City FC must have been dealt a real shock when they checked an offer to buy out the contract of their star striker — because it was from the player himself!

It was to become the first astonishing step in a fairy story sequence of events which took Davie Mitchell from 'Down Under' to up top with one of Britain's biggest clubs, Rangers.

He explains: "I left Scotland for Australia with my folks when I was

seven and my father brought me up preaching the legend of Glasgow Rangers. Consequently there was only one team for whom I ever wanted to play."

And so just as his career was hitting a peak in Australia this young man took the gamble of a lifetime, bought out his own contract and headed for the other side of the world.

Even he saw the deal as a long term affair, hoping to persuade the club to sign him and allow him a season or so to prove himself in the reserves.

was injured and I was moved forward and haven't looked back.

"My dad was a Rangers fan all the way and we used to have the *Rangers News* sent to us. I was moved from Adelaide to Sydney City and came to Scotland for a trial with Rangers two years ago. But Sydney City wouldn't let me stay.

"It was then that I decided to buy out my contract and the deal cost me £18,000, which was every penny I had and every penny my father could raise to help me out. I came to Scotland in July, but I

slip out of Europe, just a few days after manager John Greig resigned.

But his biggest regret is that he can never play for Scotland, because as well as being a member of the Australian national Youth team which hosted the World Under-19 Cup two years ago, he played for the full Aussie side in two of the England tour games last summer in which the Socceroos did so well, drawing two and losing only once.

'Gamble'

"I watched a video of the last Scottish Cup Final between Rangers and Aberdeen and it was then that I convinced myself I could make it in the Scottish game. I knew it was a huge gamble, but it was one I had to take," he says.

"When you do something like that you must have confidence in your own ability, but I must admit that I shocked myself doing it all so quickly. Still, I am hardly complaining."

And neither, for that matter are the Rangers management who have watched him battle every

THE LIGHT BLUE SOCCEROO

Davie Mitchell spent £18,000 to join Rangers

Mitchell (back row, fifth from left) lines up with the Australian team before their 1-1 draw with England in Melbourne last June.

Instead it has been instant fame, with the Ibrox fans taking him to their hearts and the Glasgow Evening newspaper tagging him the 'Light Blue Socceroo'.

Mitchell is on a two-year contract with Rangers and is currently staying with an aunt and uncle on the South side of Glasgow. Even he, while obviously not lacking confidence in his own ability, is totally bemused at how well things have gone.

He says: "I didn't even start playing football until I was ten, although my brother and father played. I was a centre-half to begin with and I moved to midfield, where I was eventually selected for the State team while living in Adelaide.

"But the striker for that match

didn't expect to break through so quickly."

As it happened, Mitchell's impact was incredible. He made his debut in an early-season League Cup tie against Queen of the South in Dumfries and scored after just three minutes.

Then he produced an excellent showing in a match against Celtic at Parkhead and even managed a goal after coming on as substitute in the European Cup-Winners' Cup tie against Porto at Ibrox.

Naturally he was disappointed when Rangers lost the return to

inch of the way to help the Ibrox club through a nightmare autumn.

Greig's resignation and the subsequent refusal of first Alex Ferguson and then Jim McLean to take over have hit Rangers hard.

Now their players must roll up their sleeves and fight to restore the club to former glories.

Mitchell is exactly what Rangers need, a young man who will battle for the jersey but has the skill to accompany that will to win.

And with a little help from their adopted Aussie, maybe they can boomerang back to the top of the Scottish game.



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UMBRO						
Celtic (H)	15.00	15.00	15.00	20.10	20.10	
Rangers (H & A)	15.85	15.85	15.85	20.65	20.65	
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FIAT PUT PLATINI ON THE ROAD TO RICHES

JUVENTUS are ready to give Michel Platini a job that could earn him more money than he gets for playing!

The French World Cup star's contract expires in June, and with the top clubs in Europe prepared to go into the red to sign him, Platini can afford to take his time and sift through the options.

But Juventus are determined to keep him in Turin and their Fiat backers, led by chairman Gianni

Agnelli, are preparing a package deal that would give Platini two contracts.

The first would be for Juventus, on an increased salary, and the second for Fiat, for whom he would work exclusively on sales promotions, making personal appearances throughout Europe.

SHOCK FOR HRUBESCH

HORST Hrubesch may pay a severe penalty for playing against Dundee United in the European Cup.

The former West German international striker was told by doctors to rest an injured heel and undergo an operation. But he ignored their advice and turned out for Standard Liege.

Hrubesch, one of the best headers of a ball in Europe, injured the heel against United. Now he is out until January... and has been warned that he will never regain his "jumping strength" because of damage to his foot.



ON THE ROCKS

ST. Etienne, once the pride of France, are slipping ever closer to Second Division football.

Currently 19th in the 20 club League, they attracted the biggest crowd of the day — 20,084 — for their home game against leaders Bordeaux. But a 2-0 defeat anchors the famous 'greens' deeper in trouble.

They tell me...

- The Polish F.A. has forced Belgian club Lokeren to hand over all of the undisclosed transfer fee they received from Mexican club Atlanta for former Poland international Gregorz Lato. FIFA ruled that Lokeren should have sought permission from the Polish authorities before completing the deal.
- Henri Depireux, newly appointed coach of FC Winterdag, has an unusual clause in his contract. Depireux, who speaks French, has exactly three months to learn Flemish, the language spoken by everyone at his new club.
- Jan Poortvliet of PSV Eindhoven, the former Dutch World Cup player, is top of Cologne's shopping list.
- U'dinese's Brazilian striker Zico is the toast of Italy after scoring six goals in four games... something unheard of in



JUST THE TICKET

SIEGFRIED Kunze, general manager of Hertha Berlin, was somewhat disappointed when he collected first prize in a lottery held at a six-day cycle race. Whatever he was expecting to win it was not what he was handed... two tickets for Hertha's next home game!

Super Swedes

SWEDEN's stunning 3-0 win over Italy in Rome confirms what Swedish fans have believed for some time — their country is now a tremendous force in world football.

That win completed a double over the troubled Italians and left Sweden top of their European Championship Group C.

It requires a miracle for Sweden to survive in that spot once their rivals have completed their games. But with the 1986 World Cup in mind, cast a glance over some of their other successes in the past 12 months.

A sparkling 3-0 draw with Brazil, victory over Italy by 2-0, Cyprus 5-4, a 2-2 draw in Czechoslovakia and a 1-0 triumph in the return.

Sweden catching the eye included Robert Fryk (Malmö), Glenn Stenberg (Malmö), Dan Corneliusson (Stuttgart) and the Gothenburg pair, Stig Fredrickson and Glenn Hysén.



- defence-dominated Italian football for no less than 17 years!
- Cesar Luis Menotti (above) is thinking of resigning from Barcelona when his contract expires next June. The manager has already said that, at 45, this will be his last season as a club manager.
- Bjorn Nordquist, one of the most capped players in the known football world with 115 for Sweden, has retired at the grand old age of 41. He played his last competitive game for Gothenburg club Örgryte to bring his total to 1,138 matches in Sweden, Holland and the USA.

STUDS UP!

FRENCH title chasers Monaco have asked their F.A. to instruct referees to inspect players' boots at least 15 minutes before kick-off. This follows the game at Sochaux where the referee sent a Monaco player back to the dressing room to change his studs and insisted the team kick-off with ten men!

STALEMATE

RIVAL electronics giants Philips (Holland) and Sony (Japan) are locked in a battle to sponsor the Dutch national team. Both have offered around £1 million, but interested parties within the Dutch F.A. appear to have split into two camps and the haggle could be prolonged.

BROADSIDE

NUCCIO Rossello, president of Sicilian club Terranova, has rocked Italian football with a verbal broadside, accusing native players of being unprofessional.

Rossello is now fielding a side comprising entirely foreign players — five Argentinians, two Uruguayans, one Chilean, one Peruvian, one Brazilian and a player from Zaire.

When asked why he did not have one Italian player in his side, Rossello snapped "I chucked the last three Italians out of my side because they didn't behave like professionals. In any case, foreigners are cheaper to hire and have a more professional attitude."

Far be it for me to question a gentleman from Sicily... but I always thought Terranova was an amateur side!



- Sweden's 3-0 European Championship win in Rome confirmed that they are now a world power to be reckoned with.
- Attendances at Austrian Oberliga games are so poor that the Austrian F.A. is suggesting a new League comprising the top sides from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The proposed name for this league is the 'Danube Liga'.
 - Switzerland striker Claudio Sulzer says he won't play any international football in 1984 because he wants time off to complete his law studies.
 - Roberto Cabanas, New York Cosmos' Paraguayan striker, has been named the "most valuable player of the NASL". The 22-year-old former Cerro Porteno goalscorer had 25 to his credit plus 16 assists.
 - Brazil's goalkeeper Leao is about to achieve the fabulous landmark of topping Rivelino's record of 118 caps for his country. The 'keeper reached the 100 mark against Paraguay and is playing well enough to suggest that he will continue as the best for that position in Brazil.



Ian Rush sinks Athletic Bilbao with a header to put Liverpool into the last eight of the European Cup.

HEADING for glory



Frank Stapleton heads Manchester United into the Quarter-Final of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

CRYSTAL PALACE



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

FOLLOWING their narrow escape from relegation to the Third Division last season, much better things were expected of Crystal Palace in 1983-84.

Yet already it looks as if manager Alan Mullery has another battle against the drop on his hands.

Realising the limitations of his first team squad, the former Spurs and England star worked skilfully and frugally during the summer to improve his team's promotion prospects.

At a total cost of just £20,000, Mullery drafted in experienced players of the quality

of George Wood, Stan Cummins, Tony Evans, Andy McCulloch and John Lacy.

But a crippling series of injuries, particularly to the forward line, has blighted Palace's season so far. Top scorer Kevin Mabbutt has hardly played all season and is only just on the verge of a return to first team action.

McCulloch and Cummins are suffering long term lay-offs and full back Gary Locke has also been out of action with a head injury.

To make matters worse, Mullery was forced to axe hard-man Billy Gilbert and Eire international Jerry Murphy following a breach of club discipline as Palace dropped to 17th place in the Second Division.

Successive victories against Portsmouth, Middlesbrough and Cambridge lifted them out of the relegation zone, but defeats by Derby, Grimsby and Barnsley sent



them back down the table.

Shortly after that Barnsley defeat, Palace's third of the season at Selhurst Park, former Chelsea boss Ken Shellito resigned as coach.

Although he refused to comment on the reasons for his departure, Shellito insisted it was not down to a clash with Mullery or a disagreement about the team's playing style.

In an effort to recapture the form

BACK ROW (left to right): Ken Shellito (former coach), Alan Mullery (manager), Shaun Brooks, Kevin Mabbutt, Gavin Nebbeling, Andy McCulloch, John Phillips, George Wood, John Lacy, Paul Wilkins, Billy Gilbert, Les Strong, Harry Cripps (coach), Ron Woolnough (physio). **MIDDLE ROW** David Giles, Jerry Murphy, Vince Hilaire, Jim Cannon, Gary Locke, Stan Cummins, Henry Hughton, Tony Evans. **FRONT ROW** Wayne Martin, Brian Jay, David Lindsay, Tony Halstead, John de Palma, Mark Dodman, Jimmy Carter.

of a few years ago, former Selhurst Park hero Peter Nicholas has been brought back from Arsenal in a loan deal until the end of the season.

Should the tough-tackling Welsh international decide to stay after that, he will cost Palace £150,000, cash they are desperately trying to raise in time to meet the June 1st deadline.

"I'm reasonably happy with our defence, and in midfield we're not doing badly, either," says Mullery. "My biggest worry at the

moment is up front. We're just not making enough chances.

"It's easy to say that things will improve when Mabbutt, McCulloch and Cummins are all available for selection, but how long will that be?"

"We've got players at the club who are capable of scoring, but they're just not coming up with the goods at the moment.

"Players like David Giles, Vince Hilaire, Tony Evans, Paul Wilkins and Jerry Murphy should all be scoring a lot more than they have been."



Rowell's goal burst

GARY Rowell has been a consistent goalscorer for Sunderland since making his League debut against Oxford United at Roker Park in December, 1975.

In his three full games that season, Gary showed his potential by opening his account with a goal against Hull City in a 4-1 victory.

His record since, of a goal every four games, is a good average considering Sunderland have not set the football world alight.

Rowell's goals have done a lot to keep the Roker Park club in the First Division.

Although Sunderland could be in for another hard winter it is odds on that Gary will be a regular marksman once again.

He has already proved that with a flurry of six goals in seven competitive games during October.

In fact, 26-year-old Rowell has finished as Sunderland's top scorer in five of the past six seasons and is on the verge of being the club's highest post-War scorer. He is just a handful behind Len Shackleton's record of 100 goals.

He also deserves praise for his expert penalty-taking. His successful conversion against Cambridge United in the Milk Cup, Second Round, second-leg tie was his 20th consecutive goal from 12 yards.

Manager Alan Durban is in no doubt of the value of Rowell's lethal finishing. He says: "Gary must rank among the top six goalscorers in the country."

"I must say, though, that I would gladly swap the top scorer's mantle if it meant success for Sunderland," says the modest Rowell.

If the former England Under-21 star can continue his October goal burst The Rokerites stand every chance of climbing the First Division table as well as grabbing some success.

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Oh no you don't! Spurs' defender Graham Roberts keeps a tight rein on Watford's George Reilly.



HANDS OFF!



Don't know what a tackle is? Look no further than the 1-0 win at Watford.



THERE'S a nasty rumour going around that all right-footed players at Villa have been made redundant. I'm only joking, of course. So are Alan Curbishley and Gary Williams, who play on the right side of the Villa team and "complain" their efforts go unnoticed because most of our work is done down the left.

It's true most of our play is concentrated down the left flank because that's where our attacking strength is.

Villa rely heavily on Tony Morley, Gordon Cowans (when fit) and left-back Colin Gibson to provide the crosses for Peter Withe, Mark Walters and me when I'm playing.

Colin is more attack conscious than the Villa number two Gary Williams, but that could soon change.

Manager Tony Barton has been encouraging Gary to go forward more, to overlap and add his support down the right.



There's no reason why Alan or Gary should worry about their contribution to the team.

Gary has firmly established himself at Villa even though he had a tough introduction to the side at right-back.

He had been brought up as a central defender and the right-back position was totally alien to him. But Gary stuck to the task and has developed into one of the finest defenders in the country.

In fact, Gary has been Villa's most consistent player over the past year.

Alan Curbishley hasn't played 40 games for us yet, so it's early days for him at Villa Park.

Although he's a quality player, Alan hasn't been totally accepted by the Villa fans simply because he was transferred from arch rivals

STAR WRITER GARY SHAW

The Villa players were naturally stunned and disgusted by the defeat. So was Tony Barton, who surprisingly said very little to the lads afterwards.

To be honest the whole side played so badly there was nothing Tony could say.

I watched the game from one of the private boxes in the stand so fortunately was spared the wrath

of the angry fans, many of whom still remember the last time Villa were hit for six at home.

That was in 1966-67 when Bobby Tambling scored five in Chelsea's 6-2 victory.

Heavy defeats affect players differently. Some voice their anger and frustration in the dressing room afterwards and blame everybody but themselves.

Others, like me, prefer to sit in silence. If I've got something to get off my chest I usually have a quiet word with Tony Barton.

Several of the Villa lads, such as Colin Gibson and Peter Withe, take defeat badly.

They hate losing, even in five-a-sides during training. Peter often hotly disputes a goal against his side if he feels it was scored unfairly.

Being hammered by Arsenal was bad enough. Defeat by Spartak Moscow in the UEFA Cup was a disaster for the club.

Deflected

A shot by Fyodor Cherenkov in the dying seconds of the game at Villa Park was deflected into his own net by Dennis Mortimer.

Until then Villa were drawing 1-1 and looking forward to the next Round on the basis of the two away goals scored in Moscow.

Peter Withe had given us the perfect start with a goal after two minutes, but the Russians hit back and towards the end Villa were fortunate to hang on for as long as they did.

Even so, we were shattered at being pipped at the UEFA Cup post.

After these setbacks it's vital Villa get a good result against lowly Leicester on Saturday.

I'd like to end on a happy note. So my congratulations to teammate Gary Williams and his wife Liz on the recent birth of their baby boy Simon. Another Villa star of the future perhaps?

My message to Curbishley's critics SHUT -UP!

Birmingham City

Alan is under enormous pressure from the home crowd, who occasionally give him unfair stick.

Given time I'm sure Alan will win the Villa fans over. I hope so, because Alan's vision and passing ability can add a new dimension to our game.

At least the fans can't blame Alan for Villa's recent disaster when Arsenal gunned us down 6-2 at home. He was out injured.

Villa might be classed a left handed side, but not as much as Arsenal. At least 75-80 per cent of their play is down the left, with Graham Rix and Kenny Sansom sparking off the ammunition for Tony Woodcock.

Tony hit five of Arsenal's goals and collected the match ball from Tony Barton, who told him: "You've had the ball for 90 minutes, you might as well keep it for good."

Going out of the UEFA Cup to Spartak Moscow (right) was a real blow, particularly after our 6-2 defeat by Arsenal.



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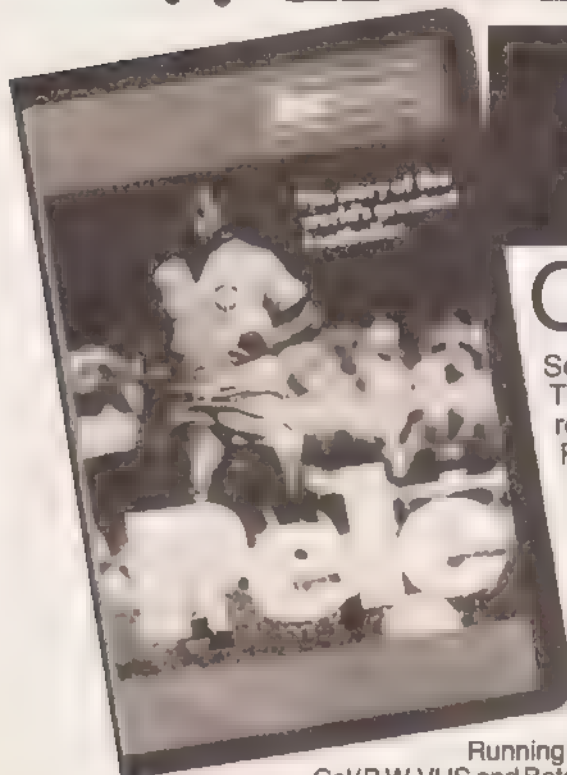
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ENGLAND EXPECTS...

QUIET man Mike Duxbury let's his boots do the talking for him. And they speak volumes for the talent of one of Britain's fast rising stars.

The Manchester United right-back swells with pride every time he pulls on that famous red shirt.

And he, like everybody else in football, knows it is only a matter of time before he reaches his ultimate aim — to

wear the number two shirt regularly for England.

"Everybody tells me I will play for England," says Duxbury. "That's very nice. But I have missed out twice because of injury," he said. "And nobody could believe how disappointed I was."

Duxbury — five feet nine inches and ten stones 11lbs — should have played twice for England if Bobby Robson had had his way

But last minute injuries

forced him out of the game against Denmark at Wembley — and again against the once mighty Magyars of Hungary in the European Championship qualifiers.

"I don't get hurt too often but those two injuries were critical and held up my international career," says the 23-year-old.

Duxbury, from Mill Town, Blackburn, in Lancashire's cotton belt, is the strangely quiet and shy lad among the

And Mike Duxbury can't wait!

Old Trafford glamour boys.

He lives 20 miles from the hurly-burly — the country boy happy at home with his wife Karen.

"I know I am regarded as a quiet man at United — but that's just the way I like it. I prefer just to get on with doing my best for the team and trying to get an England shirt without getting involved in all the other stuff that can drag big team players down.

"I am a country boy and I intend to keep it like that and stay hidden away in my little home in the hills."

"He has great vision, he knows when to go forward and he is a fully committed competitor who does not know how to give up," says manager Ron Atkinson.

That quality was tested to the full when Atkinson signed England defender John Gidman from Everton after Duxbury, having played 33 games, thought he was United's first choice.

"It seemed I had taken a step backwards and I would have to start all over again," says Mike.

But an injury to Gidman — Atkinson's first Old Trafford signing — let the talented kid back in again.

"And he has gone from strength to strength," says Atkinson. There is no doubt he is the best right-back in Britain.

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Frank Bruno

Britain's heavyweight boxing hope with a superman body says he can win the World crown in the next three years.

Charlie Nicholas

Arsenal's Scottish international striker says, "I don't want London's bright lights."

Bryan Robson

Captain of England and Manchester United says that the current England team is better than the one that played in the 1970s

Ian Botham

One of the hardest hitters in cricket history says he wants England to be the best team in the world

Keke Rosberg

1982 World Motor Racing Champion says "When you brake you feel your seat belts are pushing the air out of your body."

Vince Hilatre

Crystal Palace's former Young England star says "They tried to poach me."



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IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Nov. 19, 1977: Nottingham Forest lose 1-0 at Leeds, their last defeat until December 9, 1978. During that time they create a League record of 42 First Division games unbeaten.

Nov. 20, 1971: Ted MacDougall scores nine times as Bournemouth thrash non-League Margate 11-0 in an F.A. Cup tie.

Nov. 20, 1974: Ten Leeds United players appear in full international matches on the same day — a feat unequalled any other time this century. Paul Madeley, Terry Cooper and Allan Clarke play for England v Portugal; David Harvey, Billy Bremner, Gordon McQueen, Joe Jordan and Peter Lorimer for Scotland v Spain; Terry Yorath for Wales v Luxembourg and Johnny Giles for Eire v Turkey.

Nov. 20, 1976: 25 games are drawn — 17 in the F.A. Cup First Round and eight in the League.

Nov. 20, 1982: A record 15 players are sent-off in the League and another 12 go off in the F.A. Cup First Round.

Nov. 21, 1967: Peterborough are demoted from the Third to the Fourth Division after being found guilty of offering illegal payments to players.

Nov. 21, 1970: Leighton James makes his League debut for Burnley against Nottingham Forest.

Nov. 21, 1974: Peter Shilton is transferred from Leicester to Stoke for £325,000

Nov. 22, 1967: Tommy Docherty is appointed Rotherham manager.

Nov. 22, 1971: Alvechurch beat Oxford City 1-0 at the sixth attempt — the longest F.A. Cup tie in history.

Nov. 23, 1973: Ron Saunders is appointed Man. City manager

Nov. 23, 1972: Bob Stokoe is appointed Sunderland boss.

Nov. 25, 1953: Hungary becomes the first foreign team to beat England at home when they win 6-3 at Wembley in a now historic match.



DANNY GRAINIE could soon be following his mate Charlie Nicholas down to England. Celtic's 21-year-old striker has been completely out of sorts this season and has just joined struggling Wolves on a month's loan in an effort to recapture his best form. Says Celtic boss David Hay: "If Wolves like what they see in Danny we'd be perfectly agreeable to a permanent deal — at the right price."

COLIN MURPHY is a man who backs his judgment in hard cash. The Lincoln City boss handed out £20,000 to Alliance League club Telford United for central defender Alan Walker and feels in a short space of time he could have a player worth at least £100,000.

SUNDERLAND have turned the clock back ten years to give another chance to a striker David Callaghan, now 25 and playing with Blue Star in the Vaux Weerside League, was on the Roker club's books as a teenager along with his twin brother Tommy. After recent goalscoring exploits David caught the eye of Alan Durban, who has drafted him into Sunderland's reserve side.

● Some Ipswich fans might feel that Paul Mariner and John Wark are guilty of biting the hand that feeds them with their demands for a wage rise. But Portman Road apprentice Andy Lawrence is more concerned about keeping his own fingers intact. And when you feed your ferocious pet carp by hand, that can be a tricky business.

SHEFFIELD UNITED's Tom Heffernan scored his first goal for the club in the 2-0 win over Bournemouth — his last club. And he predicted doing just that in a TV interview 24 hours earlier. "I never score in the first ten games of the season so I'm due for one tomorrow. I'll score and we'll win," Tom told the cameras. How right he was.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

NOEL'S COUNTY goalkeeper Jim McDermagh obviously suffers from an acute case of split personality. For he insists his name is Seamus.

Says McDermagh: "When I joined Rotherham as a 15 year old, I was somehow registered as James, which is the English version of my real name. I've been called Jim ever since, but I'd now like to be known by my proper name, Seamus."

Intertwined by this sudden change of identity — I sifted through *Night* and *Focus* forms and came across one from 22nd March 1981, when the player concerned was quite happy to supply his full name as "James Martin McDermagh."

Could the fact that this Yorkshireman is now the Republic of Ireland's first choice international goalkeeper have anything to do with this confusing name change?

WEST HAM, looking to strengthen their reserve squad in the midfield department, have turned their attentions to Northern Ireland Glentoran youngsters David Keaty and Laurence Fyfe are both being closely watched.

IN the tradition of all great left-wingers, Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock puts his best foot forward in the battle for victory.

Actually, the Leader of the Opposition was leading the cheers for his son Stephen, pictured here before a school team match.

Somehow, I can't imagine Margaret Thatcher showing quite as much enthusiasm for our national sport.



BY MARK IRWIN

TV or not TV

INTERESTING QUOTE from Bury boss Jim Hey in the October 13 edition of the Nottingham Evening Post.

Said Jim: "Football and television must live together. I'd love the chance of managing a team that projected my attacking beliefs before millions of people."

Three days later Bury were hammered 10-0 at West Ham in the Milk Cup and four days after that they refused the BBC permission to screen the goals!

I'm not says

Steve McMahon's tempestuous start to his Aston Villa career has certainly raised a few eyebrows.

Even his new team-mates have started to call him 'The Beast' after being booked four times and ordered off once in his first few games.

Yet the England Under-21

Leicester's blunder

GOAL-SHY Leicester may well be regretting their decision to release 21-year old Paul Culpin last year.

The young striker was instantly snapped up by Alliance League Nuneaton Borough and in his first 36 games scored 38 goals as the League scouts flocked to watch.

Says Nuneaton boss Graham Carr: "He's the best finisher I've seen for many years. I don't know how long we can hang on to him, but we won't stand in his way if we get a good offer."

HE story of Aberdeen's success at home and in Europe last season is now available in book form.

"Here We Go" is named after the Pittodrie supporters' favourite song and captures all the excitement of The Dons' success in the European Cup-Winners' Cup and Scottish Cup.

Written by journalist Keith Anderson of The Scotsman, whose father Chris is the Aberdeen vice-chairman, it costs £3.95.

Animal McMahon

midfield international insists he is not a dirty player.

Says Steve: "I left Everton for Villa because I felt it would benefit my chances of playing for England."

"I'm still fitting in to Villa's style of play and because I'm so determined to impress I'm trying too hard."

WORLD CHAMPIONS Italy will play Fire in Dublin on Sunday, March 4, 1984.

That could cause problems, because with a full Football League programme the day before many English-based players will not be available.

Only Liam Brady is certain to be available for Fire because, like his Italian colleagues, he'll have a free weekend.

Poland will also be playing a friendly in Dublin on Wednesday, May 23 — the same night as the UEFA Cup Final!

Watford's star student

WATFORD skipper Pat Rice's 'Good Samaritan' act to young Charlie Palmer may well have backfired on the evergreen Northern Ireland international.

During the last few months Rice has given constant help and advice to the 20-year-old full-back. And Palmer has made such good progress he's now threatening to keep Rice out of the team for good!

Admits Charlie: "I used to get upset if I made a mistake and would let it affect my game. Pat has put me right on that score and his advice has been invaluable to me."

THERE are signs of a ceasefire in the hostilities between Birmingham manager Ron Saunders and his transfer-listed full-back Mark Dennis.

Dennis was recently fined £750 for failing to turn up for a reserve game, but he has not paid up and it looks as if Saunders is prepared to overlook the matter.

The Birmingham boss feels Dennis is suffering enough from not playing League football.



THE KING OF HEARTS

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN player-manager Alex MacDonald is in no doubt as to his position in Scottish football after rightly being named as MacKinlay's Personality Player of the Month.

The incredible Hulk

BOB HAZELL, the powerfully-built central defender Leicester bought from QPR earlier in the season, presented his new club with a problem even before he had played for them!

Happily, though, this had nothing to do with the 'bad boy' tag earned by Hazell in his playing days at Molineux and Loftus Road. City found that they did not have a jersey to fit the big man and an SOS call to their kit manufacturers for a specially made kit was needed to save the day.

COOPER CLEARED

RANGERS winger Dave Cooper has been cleared of reckless conduct by a Scottish court following allegations that he threw a coin into the crowd during last January's Cup-tie at Falkirk.

Team-mate Ally Dawson supported Cooper's claim that he threw the coin on to the track surrounding the Brockville Park pitch and Sheriff Robert Younger ruled there was insufficient grounds to proceed with the charges.

Did you know?

OF the 22 clubs currently comprising the First Division, only Luton, Norwich and Notts County have never appeared in one of three European competitions.

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Listed here are five jumbled up football teams. Rearrange the letters to find out which teams they are. TWO of the teams are from the English First Division — write these on a postcard or back of a sealed down empty envelope together with your name, age and address and post to: SHOOTSUBBUTEO COMPETITION (WEEK 2), 55 EWER STREET, LONDON SE9 6YP, to arrive no later than Wednesday, November 30th, 1983.

All accepted entries will be examined and the first prizes awarded to the senders of the two nearest correct entries, with age taken into account. Remaining prizes will be awarded for the next best attempts in order of merit.

The competition is open to all readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Eire, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, other than employees and their families of IPC Magazines Ltd., the printers of Shoot, or of Subbuteo Sports Games Ltd.

Winners will be notified and the result published later in Shoot.

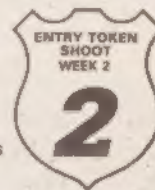
Which two of these football teams are in the First Division?

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HAMMING RIB
BIG THORN
NOT SOUTH MAP
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— predicts

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preview

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in football!

QUEENS Park Rangers manager Terry Venables believes free-scoring striker Simon Stainrod can follow team-mate John Gregory into the England side.

Stainrod shot to the top of the First Division goal charts as Rangers climbed up the table after a shaky start to the season.

shouting distance of the top, as we have, you must aim for it.

"I've found the techniques of First Division clubs higher, yet I feel Second Division teams are better organised defensively.

"My priority is always to score, but I'm happier if I feel I've also played well generally. I've been compared with former Rangers

stars such as Rodney Marsh and Stan Bowles. I can't remember too much about them, but my natural game appeals to the supporters because there's a bit of fun to it."

Stainrod dismisses the Rangers knockers who have criticised their style, particularly their use of the offside trap.

"Watford had it last term. There will always be people looking for excuses why they don't win. It certainly doesn't worry us."

'STAN'

STAINROD'S ENGLAND

DREAM

And the 24-year-old £275,000 signing from Oldham Athletic three years ago admits that playing for his country would fulfil the dreams he's had since he was a kid in Sheffield, where he was nicknamed 'Stan' because the baggy shorts he wore made him look like Stanley Matthews.

Venables, who used to coach the England Under-21 team, said: "When Simon is consistent there's no one better. He was outstanding for us the season we reached the F.A. Cup Final, but last season he never really shook off an ankle injury and had a difficult time.

"He's back to his best now, doing the things he knows he can do. The fans love him. John Gregory got his rewards for being consistent and if Simon continues as he's been playing he'll get his rewards, too."

Playing for England will be a long way from the streets where Stainrod used to wear his over-large shorts: "Because we didn't have much money."

'Desperate'

And he says: "I think a lot about representing England. I'm desperate to be picked. I realise I must prove myself over a period of time, but if I maintain my present form and don't get picked then I'll be very upset."

Stainrod says he had to change his entire attitude as a person and a footballer to reach the top.

"I injured ankle ligaments, ironically at Oldham, in September of last season and the trouble just wouldn't go away. I was just getting by and that isn't good enough. I was becoming awkward with people, but during the summer I sat down and thought about things carefully.

"I decided that with my ankle completely healed I must make the most of what I've got and I had a much more positive outlook to everything."

Stainrod and Rangers came to terms with the First Division quickly, but he says no one should be surprised. "If you have quality players they'll adapt without any problems. And we have some very good players.

"People may not think we can win the title, but if you get within

Stainrod celebrates with
Tony Sealy after his goal in
the 3-1 defeat of Sunderland.



**Flashback
MAGIC**

**CHESTY
GREENHOFF**

Date: Saturday, May 21, 1977
Match: F.A. Cup Final
Result: Liverpool 1 Man. Utd. 2
Venue: Wembley Stadium

Lou Macari's shot deflects off the chest of team-mate Jimmy Greenhoff and flies into the Liverpool goal! despite the efforts of Phil Neal on the line. It was a scrappy goal to settle a Final which had burst into life when Stuart Pearson fired United into the lead shortly after half-time. Within a minute Jimmy Case had

equalised for Liverpool, but their hopes of a unique "treble" were wrecked by Greenhoff's winner. They'd already won the League Championship and just four days after their Wembley defeat came back to win the European Cup for the first time, beating Borussia Moenchengladbach in the Final.

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Focus ALAN BILEY

Full name: Alan Paul Biley.
Birthplace and date: I was born in Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire on February 26, 1957.
Height and weight: 5ft 8½ins. 11st 11lbs.
Married: To Ann.
Home: We have a lovely house in the Waterlooville area of Hampshire.
Car: Toyota Supra.

Portsmouth

Previous clubs: I started with my local club Luton but was given a free transfer before playing a League game. I moved on to Cambridge, where I first made a name for myself and have since been with Derby and Everton. I was also on loan with Stoke before signing for Pompey.

Nickname: I've got loads — far too many to tell you them all!

Favourite other team: All my previous clubs, plus Manchester United, who I supported as a boy.

Boyhood hero: The one and only Denis Law. He'd be the king of my all-time greats XI — Banks, Beckenbauer, Cruyff, Maradona, Robson, Zico, Pele, Law, Best, Greaves, Charlton. They'd play all out attack!

Most memorable match: Every one of my debut games for my numerous clubs. I scored in them all.

Favourite player: Manchester United and England skipper Bryan Robson. Simply a magnificent footballer.

Biggest disappointment: I've had lots of disappointments, but I don't bother thinking about them. It does me no good to dwell on them.

Superstitions: I have two lucky jackets which I wear before a game — not both at the same time!

International honours:

Unfortunately, I don't have any.

Club honours: Fourth Division

Champions medal with Cambridge in 1976-77; promoted to Division Two with Cambridge in 1977-78; Third Division Champions medal with Pompey in 1982-83.

Hobbies: Sleeping!

Favourite other sports: I don't play many other sports, but I enjoy watching most of them.

Biggest influence on career: I have been very lucky to have lots of good friends. Early in my career my grandfather helped me a lot, then a little later it was Paddy Sowden at Cambridge.



There have been a great many people since then.

Favourite showbusiness stars: Cannon & Ball, Dustin Hoffman, Steve McQueen and Marilyn Monroe. I love all types of music, but I have to admit I'd love to meet Jay Ashton of Bucks Fizz.

Ambitions for 1983-84: To enjoy life, score a lot of goals and help Portsmouth back to

Favourite other sports person: Shoot writer Jimmy Greaves. After being one of the best goalscorers of all time, he went through bad times and pulled through to become a superb character and TV personality. I admire his guts.

the First Division where they belong.

Long-term ambitions: I'd love to stay in football in some capacity or other when I retire and perhaps run my own business. But I'll probably end up as a dustman doing part-time brain surgery.

Alan Biley



SHOOT!